

MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & VALUATION

Ludwig Greiner Papier-Mâché Doll — First American Patented Doll Head — Original 1858 Patent Label Intact

ADELAIDE

Ludwig Greiner, Philadelphia — Patented March 30th, 1858

◆ GREINER'S IMPROVED PATENT HEADS · PAT. MARCH 30TH '58 · ORIGINAL LABEL PRESENT ◆



"Adelaide" — Ludwig Greiner Papier-Mâché Shoulder Head Doll — 27" — circa 1858–1872

Papier-Mâché Shoulder Head — Molded Black Hair — Painted Blue Eyes — Cloth Body — Leather Arms

Original Greiner 1858 Patent Label Intact — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORY

Ludwig Greiner holds a singular place in American history as the maker of the **first doll head ever patented in the United States**. A German immigrant who arrived in Philadelphia in the 1830s, Greiner spent years perfecting a formula for papier-mâché doll heads that were stronger, more durable, and more beautiful than anything previously available to American children. On **March 30th, 1858**, he received U.S. Patent No. 19,770 — the first American patent ever granted for a doll head. His formula reinforced the papier-mâché with linen or silk strips from within, producing a head of remarkable durability. The patent was later extended in 1872. Greiner affixed a small paper label to the interior of each doll's shoulder plate bearing his name and the patent date — making labeled examples among the most historically significant dolls in American collecting. **Adelaide**, at 27 inches, is a substantial and fine example of Greiner's earliest production period, her original 1858 patent label still present and legible after more than 165 years — an extraordinary survival that places her firmly in the top tier of American antique doll collecting.



*Adelaide — 27" Ludwig Greiner Papier-Mâché Doll
Philadelphia, PA — circa 1858–1872
Molded Black Hair — Painted Blue Eyes
Cloth Body — Leather Arms
Original 1858 Patent Label Intact (above)*

◆ *"Ludwig Greiner holds the distinction of being the first person to receive an American patent for a doll head — March 30th, 1858. His labeled dolls are among the most historically important objects in*

✦ ORIGINAL PATENT LABEL ✦

*"Greiner's Improved
Patent Heads
Pat. March 30th '58"*

CURRENT MARKET VALUE

\$475 – \$900+

*27" Greiner with 1858 label — original label intact
Theriault's: 30" Greiner 1858 label — sold \$750
Frasher's: 27" Greiner No.9 1858 — sold \$475
Stephenson's: 27" Greiner 1858 — sold \$180 (worn)
Value enhanced by intact original label & condition
Collector & auction market data 2023–2025*

American folk art and toy collecting." ✦

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ✦ Maker: Ludwig Greiner — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania — est. 1840
- ✦ Distinction: First American patented doll head — U.S. Patent No. 19,770
- ✦ Patent date: March 30th, 1858 — original paper label intact and present
- ✦ Size: 27 inches tall
- ✦ Head: Papier-mâché shoulder head — reinforced with linen — Greiner's patented formula
- ✦ Hair: Molded and painted black hair — characteristic Greiner styling
- ✦ Eyes: Painted blue eyes — upper lashes — tapered brows
- ✦ Body: Cloth body — leather arms — traditional period construction
- ✦ Label: Original "Greiner's Improved Patent Heads — Pat. March 30th '58" — intact
- ✦ Era: circa 1858–1872 (pre-extension label dates to earliest production period)
- ✦ Age: Approximately 165+ years old
- ✦ Comparable: 27" Greiner No.9 with 1858 label — sold \$475 at Frasher's Doll Auction
- ✦ Comparable: 30" Greiner with 1858 original label — sold \$750 at Theriault's

Collector's Note — Exceptional Significance: The presence of the **original 1858 patent label** is the single most important factor in the value and historical significance of any Greiner doll. The majority of Greiner dolls that survive today have lost their labels entirely after 165+ years. A labeled 1858 Greiner in good condition is actively sought by serious American antique doll collectors, folk art collectors, and museum curators. Adelaide is a genuinely important piece of American history — the product of the very first patented doll head ever made in the United States.

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Certificate Issued: June 2026 | Values based on Theriault's, Frasher's, Stephenson's & collector auction data 2023–2025

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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Proprietor
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