

Mom's Joy Room

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Bramble & Pip — Pair of Vintage Tinka-Bell Sheepskin Bears

Plummer & Wandless, England | c.1965–1975 | 11" and 8"

ESTIMATED WORTH (PAIR)

\$50–\$90



Bramble (11") and Pip (8") — original labels, washing instructions, and ribbons intact

Meet **Bramble** and **Pip** — a darling matched pair of vintage English sheepskin bears from the Tinka-Bell line. Bramble, the taller of the two, stands about 11 inches, while little Pip measures about 8 inches. Both wear their original bows and ribbons and retain every one of their original labels, including the washing instruction tags — a remarkable survival for bears of this age. Purchased in England sometime between 1965 and 1975 and then

carefully stored for more than forty years, they emerged in like-new condition: soft, clean, and utterly huggable, with none of the wear, thinning, or bald patches so common to well-loved sheepskin bears of their generation.

"Some bears wait forty years in a quiet drawer — just to be young again in the right pair of hands."

History

The Tinka-Bell bear takes its name from Tinker Bell, the fairy of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* — a fittingly whimsical name for one of Britain's most charming post-war soft toy lines. The bears were produced by Plummer & Wandless & Co., an English maker based in Sussex, beginning in the late 1940s and continuing into the 1960s and 1970s. The company was best known for its sheepskin teddies and offered some two dozen designs over the life of the line, including classic teddies, koalas, and other nursery friends, all crafted from genuine lambskin pelt with stitched features and glass-style eyes.

Sheepskin was a practical and beloved material for British toymakers of this era — soft, durable, naturally warm to the touch, and gentle against a child's cheek. Tinka-Bell bears were true nursery companions rather than shelf pieces, which is precisely why so few survive today with their paper labels intact. A bear that spent decades being hugged, dragged about by one arm, and washed in the kitchen sink simply lost its tags, ribbons, and eventually its fur. Pairs like Bramble and Pip, purchased together in England in the mid-1960s to mid-1970s and then tucked away in storage for over forty years, represent the very best-case survival — they were spared the nursery entirely and have slept, pristine, through the decades.

Today, Tinka-Bell bears hold an affectionate place among collectors of vintage British teddies — less famous than Merrythought or Chad Valley, but treasured for their storybook name, their soft honey-and-cream coloring, and their honest, handmade English character. Individual examples in average played-with condition commonly sell in the \$10–\$25 range, while tag-complete, like-new examples command a strong premium. A fully labeled, ribboned, near-pristine matched pair such as this is an uncommon find, supported by an Estimated Worth of \$50–\$90 for the pair.

Notable Features

- ◆ Genuine English sheepskin construction, Tinka-Bell line by Plummer & Wandless & Co. (Sussex)
- ◆ Matched pair: Bramble (11") and Pip (8"), purchased together in England, c.1965–1975
- ◆ All original labels intact, including washing instruction tags
- ◆ Original bows/ribbons present on both bears
- ◆ Over 40 years in careful storage — like-new, no fur loss or thinning
- ◆ Line named for Tinker Bell of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*

COLLECTOR NOTES

Attribution is label-confirmed: both bears retain their original Tinka-Bell manufacturer's labels, which anchor

them to the Plummer & Wandless English sheepskin line. The c.1965–1975 purchase date derives from the original owner's account (purchased in England, stored 40+ years) and is consistent with the known production window of the line, which ran from the late 1940s onward. The combination of complete labels, washing instructions, and original ribbons is the key value driver here — most surviving Tinka-Bells have lost theirs to decades of nursery love. Value reflects recent comparable sales of individual examples (\$10–\$25 for average condition) with a premium applied for the pair's exceptional, storage-preserved state.

Sandy Wade

Proprietor, Mom's Joy Room

This certificate accompanies the item at time of sale and reflects research conducted at the time of cataloguing.