

Doll-Collector Has Hair-Do's to Place Ages of Her Items

By DOROTHY JEAN ZACK

From the 1820 milliner's doll to the French wax dolls, dolls tell a better history of the last century than history books can, contends Mrs. Imogene Leonard, a former Birmingham resident who now busies herself with her extensive collection in a farmhouse studio on Square Lake near Crooks road in Troy township.

"It's easier to see how people lived in the last century by seeing how the dolls were dressed, how the toys were made such as miniature mechanical toys, model trains, and materials reflecting progress of each era," she says.

"If I wanted to trace progress in the 1800's, I'd go to a doll and toy museum."

A HAIRDO of a doll can date a doll more authoritatively than most other ways, she says. Patents are another way that types of dolls can be dated.

For instance, Ludwig Greiner, made the two dolls she holds. The one at right is of a type described in patents taken out by Greiner in 1858 in America. The other, not matching those details, is supposed by her to be an earlier Greiner, done before he came from Germany. It's termed a "pre-Greiner."

The toy doll with powdered hairdo and tight bodiced, full skirted dress, is an 1820-era doll, and was a way of telling fashions news from France. It was sent, as was the custom, to America for dolls that those passing a milliner's window could see it, and copy it in their home-made dresses.

ITS FACE was of paper mache, as were most dolls until 1840. Sage curls surrounded its head beneath its pulled-down crown. "This hair came into the vogue from 1850 to 1875, and were patented after personalities that were in the public eye. Dolly Madison was a prime version, with her hair

HARDOS tell the tale says Mrs. I. Leonard who says the two dolls she holds date to 1850 at left and 1860, by Greiner. Dolly Madison's way

of hairdo is shown on the pair of dolls standing in center. Joan of Arc toy below is a prize winner.

SHE HAS FOUR sets of twin dolls—one set of the 1860's fine bisque material that was of a higher grade than the other clay faces of the Greiner dolls and other mid-century dolls.

French dolls were higher grade than the German dolls of those early days, for they had fine textured faces, larger eyes and swivel noses. And since they were not made in the number that Germans produced, they are far rarer, and hence more valued by doll collectors, says Mrs. Leonard.

Grandmother of Victoria Augusta, the English princess who married Kaiser Wilhelm is another "place-doll" for dating dolls. The one next to the twin Dolly Madison dolls has the princess' black curls in her hair and her German iron cross.

"YOU CAN'T DATE a doll by its dress," says this doll collector, "because they may be made more recently than the doll, and done from old fabrics."

When she redresses a doll, she strives to keep it completely authentic—and she's anxiously wait-



ing a chance to remake the dress on one recently acquired—it's a rayon in Victorian style!

Dolls "way back" were not playthings. The creche figures of the nativity were an early form—but in German villages the toys that formed the nativity scene took on such religious veneration that children were limited to playing with them only on Sunday.

A FETISH doll was another early one—designed by witches in likeness of an enemy and stuck with ill-wishing pins.

When dolls for little girls arrived, they were grown-up lady likenesses. It was years before a child's doll began to look like a child or baby.

Her toys are as authentic of their period as her dolls. A Joan of Arc mechanical toy is a French item that won one of her several firsts in national toy competitions.

LOCOMOTION, cooking habits, farm tools, manufacturing techniques, are all things that can be learned from toys, says Mrs. Leonard. Her collection includes magic lanterns, doll buggies, and many items in a museum outside her home. The doll collection is in a room inside the old farmhouse.

The old farmhouse, modestly placed in knobby wood cabinets.

In other cabinets is her collection of dolls she had made herself in the American theme—Revolutionary War figures, presidents, and noted women of past ages. Because she is an American, she feels she should make American theme dolls to have their authenticity.

A fan collection is another facet of her interests.

Localities Play When Orchestra Gives Concert

When the strings of the Detroit Women's Symphony orchestra break the stillness of the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium on Dec. 2, there will be three Birmingham area women adding to the melodic sound.

Mrs. H. W. Hoop, 3425 Buckleham, and Mrs. E. W. Kutzler, 15526 Birkwood, both Beverly Hills, and Mrs. Neva Rosenkemp, 811 Vinewood, are members of the Detroit musical group.

The symphony is, according to a music reviewer, "carefully organized and drilled by a man who has forgotten more about a symphony with the U.S. Navy in Washington, D. C. A Detroitian, he was first vio-

linit with the Detroit Symphony at 15 years of age and has more than 300 solo and concert performances chalked up with the symphony, and other symphonic groups.

The concert is set for 8:30 p.m., with tickets available at Grinnell or the Box office.



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While thinking of this Day and the fact that the next four weeks will bring agony to Buyers and Sellers alike, we are inclined to eliminate from commercial consideration the week ahead and give you, along with our personal thanks, not a commercial wallop but a suggestion from our Christmas Circular which may help you too to enjoy Christmas.

"I shall attend to my errands of love early this year, so that the brief days before Christmas may be undimmed and clear of the fever and the hurry. The breathless rushing I have known in the past shall not possess me. I shall be calm in my soul and ready for Christmas at last."

"I shall kneel and call out His Name. I shall take time to watch the beautiful light of a candle's flame; I shall have leisure. . . I shall go out alone from my roof and door, and I shall not miss the silver silence of the stars, as oft before. Perhaps if I stand there very still, and very long, I shall hear what the clamour of the world has kept from me. . . the Angel's Song!"

(Contributed)



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Today, in the spirit of the first Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to the Creator for all the blessings we have received . . . both as individuals and as Americans . . . a free people, living without fear in a free country. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, let us humbly acknowledge our debt to Divine Providence for all that we are and may hope to become. Like them, let us bow our heads in a prayer of gratitude to the Giver of "every good and perfect gift."

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