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Know Your Stuff: Bisque figurines of children likely more than 100 years old

BY **CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT** • FOR WILLIAMSON A.M. • JANUARY 18, 2008

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Connie,

Could you give us some information about these figurines? Both child figures are 25-inches tall, measured from the bottom of their base. The boy with a fish has a wooden fishing pole, with a fish on the end of the string. The little girl is holding her fish and has more slung over her shoulder. However, we can't seem to find the boy's fishing pole and fish. — **Barb and Deacon Dave**

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Dear Barb and Deacon Dave,

This pair of bisque figurines resembles the work of the late 19th century doll makers. Their faces and clothing look like the very popular "piano babies" made by Gebruder Heubach in the 1880's. Many doll producers also cast and painted figurines of children with pudgy faces and legs, wearing adult-style clothing. Their 25-inch height is impressive and indicates this date and time, as well.

I can't see any imperfections or sloppy painting anywhere on the pieces in the photos. The paint looks natural and realistic, and not rushed. Casual folds and creases in the fabric appear soft and natural, not at all like hard porcelain. The gold detail is deliberate and artistically applied, which is not the work of a production line. The faces are expressive and fleshy. The pair's replacement value is \$795 to \$850. A chip or hairline crack can affect value by as much as half.

Last week's column featured a figurine of a man on a goat that is not bisque but glazed porcelain. Bisque is porcelain, too, just unglazed. Sorry for the slip. Actually slip is the liquid material poured into molds to make dolls, figurines and such!

Connie Sue,

I have a set of six dining room chairs, including the captain's chair. Can you tell me what I should ask for them? — **B**



These bisque figurines, dating back to the 1880s, are valued as high as \$850.

(SUBMITTED)

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Dear 'B',

They look to be mid-20th century. The set would sell in an antique mall between \$450 and \$650.

They are in a stylized Federal style with reeded square legs, stretchers and a horizontal slat back. I love the touch of jazz you've added with the fabric!

Contact **Connie Sue Davenport** with questions about antiques and collectibles, and we'll discuss them here. Send to curios@conniesueinc.com or by mail in care of **Williamson A.M.**

in your voice

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