

Pen Pal Mousey



PEN PAL MOUSEY - WEE FOREST FOLK 1984-1985 M-114

Description:

Pen Pal Mousey - A Wee Forest Folk collectible signed by William Petersen #M-114 - Issued 1984, retired 1985. I have a collection of Wee Forest Folk adorable mice up for auction! Pen Pal Mousey is wearing blue pants and a cream colored shirt. He is mailing a letter in his wee mailbox, labeled N.I.P. This otherwise mint piece is a little dusty. Signed by William Peterson, related to Annette Petersen, the artist who created the Wee Forest Folk. His initials are pinned on the bottom. No box.

Winning Bid:

\$430.00

Ended: 3/18/07

History: 12 bids

Starting Bid: \$24.99

Winner: Paso Robles, CA

Viewed

000127 X

Pen Pal Mousey

Babette's Story (eBay ID: collectiblesandjewelry)

A few years ago I started selling my parents' stuff on eBay when they moved from their house to my sister's place. I design and make jewelry, and the extra cash helps pay for supplies. Then one day in 2006, I had a strong feeling that I should stop at a yard sale in my neighborhood, even though it was 9:30 am and all the good things would usually be sold by then. Back in a corner of the carport was a table, covered with little resin bears and other things that looked collectible—most with the original boxes. I asked what the lady wanted for all of the pieces, and she gave me a price that seemed reasonable. She even went inside and brought more of her collection!

When I got home and looked up the collectible critters on eBay, I found that I had highly collectible Boyds Bears and Artesania Rinconada figurines, among others. Hooked on the serendipity of it all, with the possibility of extra cash to boot, I've been on the road nearly every weekend since, learning lots from Lynn and her wise grandmother along the way.

So many surprises appear at garage sales. The best for me so far came in the form of tiny mice—the Wee Forest Folk by Annette and William Petersen. Once again, right in my own neighborhood, was a yard sale table holding a shoebox-top full of tiny mice dressed for all occasions, looking as if they're going about daily activities. The only time I'd ever seen a Wee Forest Folk even referred to happened to be in Lynn's book, *The 100 Best Things I've Sold on eBay*. So something rang a bell in my mind, and I pondered whether or not I should pay the \$50 (\$1-2

each) the lady was asking for the 27 tiny figurines. I asked her what she would take for the lot of them. She said, "Make me an offer!" and turned around to help someone.

Remembering Lynn's grandmother's advice that the first one to mention a price loses, I hesitated. Suddenly, the lady came back, and said, "How about \$15?" SOLD!!!

These critters seemed worth researching, and boy, was I surprised! Wee Forest Folk are very much sought after, and collectors are oh so serious. The mice are so tiny, it's hard to see any defects. One mouse (not Pen Pal Mousey) had a chip that was discovered by the buyer. Fortunately she knew a WFF artist who repairs them on the side. Instead of the buyer returning the mouse, I made a partial refund of \$20, which she said would cover the cost to have it repaired. She was very happy and left me great feedback.

After the 27 mice went through two auctions each and the unsold ones landed in my store, the total I've received so far (not including shipping and handling) is \$2,418.44. I used part of the proceeds for business, but have also been able to share some with my adult son and daughter at a time when they really needed it, which has been a blessing all around.

