

## #86 Broken Doll Head



### Bisque Broken Doll Head Marked II 1900 Fun Signature

#### Description:

Bisque doll head is broken. Antique and very "as is." Just fun to have as a signature piece example, or it may be repairable with a lot of imagination. 2¾" by 1¾" by 2¼". Head #4621.

Winning Bid:

**\$9.99**

Ended: 8/30/07

History: 1 bid (sold in store)

Starting Bid: \$9.99

Winner: MI

Viewed

000278 X

## Broken Doll Head #86

### The Story

As many of you know, my grandmother never threw anything away that she thought could be recycled or used as an example. This broken doll head was sure one of those items. When I pulled it out of one of the boxes I had inherited, I had to laugh at its \$2.50 price tag and our gall in thinking anyone would pay that much for it.

I figured, "Why not try it on eBay?" Stranger things have sold. We listed it in 2005, but there were no takers. It then sat in my eBay store until 2007, when it finally found a buyer. Two years is as long as I'll keep an item in my eBay store, and this doll head barely made it. But it did finally sell!

Bisque dolls came into fashion in the late 1860s. Before then, dolls were made of glazed porcelain. Using bisque allowed doll makers to create more realistic-looking dolls because they could control skin tone. These antique dolls usually had bisque heads, arms, and feet, with leather or cloth bodies. In later years, the bodies were made of "composition," which is a mixture of wood pulp, sawdust, and glue. Antique unglazed bisque dolls are very collectible and are usually signed on the back of the neck or on the shoulder.

I think my grandmother collected dolls and doll parts over the years because she inherited her mother's bisque doll after her mother died. That doll was about the only thing my grandmother had to remember her mother by as she grew up. I am sure that having her mother's doll gave my grandma some comfort.

My grandmother's stepmother, Elsie, had a baby boy in 1919. His name was William George

Sussex and they called him Billie. My grandmother loved Billie, and so did everyone else. He was a wonderful child. At age ten, Billie got a boil on his arm. A boil is caused when the hair on the arm turns inward and the sore gets infected.

Back in 1929, they didn't think boils were a big deal, so they didn't take him to the hospital to have it lanced. Billie passed away because of that and my grandmother never got over losing her little brother. She was seventeen years old when that happened. Luckily, two years later, my grandmother's dad and stepmother had another boy, George Robert Sussex.

My grandma always kept a photo of Billie on her mantle. It was taken right before he died; he is out playing in a huge pile of snow. My grandmother also kept his Bible in one of her display cases. She gave me that photo and Billie's little Bible before she died.

As Peter said to me, "Sometimes when you sell things on eBay you are not just making money; you're providing a valuable service by helping someone find something that is very important to them." Maybe this broken bisque doll head has now been repaired and made into a doll that means more to the new owner than we will ever know.

