

References

Dolls at Blendon's Landing

Fawcett, Clara H. *Dolls: A New Guide for Collectors*, Charles T. Branford, 1964  
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St. During the summer of 1985, a small piece of a doll's face was found at Blendon's Landing by a group of anthropology students under the supervision of Dr. Richard E. Flanders. This site has been designated 20-0T-03. The piece was unearthed in square 671, 12 North 9 East, level 3, approximately 31 centimeters below the surface. It is 2.7 centimeters long by 1.5 centimeters wide by .37 centimeters thick and is a doll's left eye.

The doll's head is estimated to have been 6 centimeters long by 4 centimeters wide. The construction material is bisque or unglazed, uncolored, polished porcelain. It does not appear to have been a 'baby' doll, but that of a young adult. The eye color was probably blue or grey, but has faded with time and misuse. The eyebrow, lid and eye have been delicately and artistically painted on the face. From the position of the left eye, it appears that the eyes would have been looking directly to the left.

With only one small fragment, it is difficult to determine the doll's origin. But, we know the approximate dates of inhabitation at Blendon's Landing to be the early to mid 19th century. Germany was the leading exporter of china parts in the early 19th century and bisque was widely used in the production of dolls' heads. These facts lead to the tentative conclusion that the doll's head was manufactured in Germany, but may have been assembled and sold as a complete doll elsewhere.

It is probable that even if the entire doll's head were to be found, there would be no identifying mark on it. Until 1891, there was no law requiring the name of the country or origin on imports in the United States. Kay of Kay's Antiques in Grand Rapids feels very strongly that the body of the doll was made of cloth. A couple of facts turned up in my research which might be of interest to the reader are 1) flesh-colored bisque was not used extensively until the mid 19th century and 2) Queen Victoria's partiality to blue eyes dictated the color of dolls' eyes. *during her time*

The history of dolls is rather intriguing and can be traced back to idols and beyond. Primitive man used miniature representations of humans for image magic and witchcraft. Shamen and people in general used small idols as fertility objects and <sup>for</sup> religious purposes, and not as play toys for children. Then, huge graven images were constructed - the most well-known are the Greek-Roman built icons. In Egypt, for example, images were used as substitutes for human sacrifices hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. As civilizations became more 'sophisticated,' some of the older superstitions were suppressed. The idols then became playthings or dolls for children of all ages.

## References

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1948 New York.
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