Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Large Grodnertal Wooden Peg Doll, Circa 1830

£325

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REF: 6917

Height: 29 cm (11.4")

Width: 10 cm (3.9")

Depth: 6 cm (2.4")

Description

An unusually large early 19th-century Grodnertal wooden peg doll, dating to circa 1830. Carved from wood and finished with a delicately hand-painted face, this charming figure is a rare survival from the early history of European toy-making.

Grodnertal dolls were made in the Val Gardena valley in the Tyrol, an important centre for wooden toys from the late 18th century onwards. Their simple, instantly recognisable construction-turned wooden limbs joined to the body with pegged fittings-gave the dolls a pleasingly articulated form while allowing skilled makers to produce them in a range of sizes. Larger examples are especially appealing and increasingly difficult to find.

This doll retains the distinctive naïve character for which Grodnertal figures are so admired. The hand-painted facial features lend it a gentle individuality, while the pared-back wooden construction speaks to the ingenuity and craftsmanship of a period before industrial toy production. Its generous scale makes it particularly striking, whether displayed alone or as part of a wider collection of early toys, folk art, or miniature objects.

A wonderfully evocative piece of childhood history, with the warmth, character, and quiet presence that only an early hand-made doll can possess. A compelling addition to a collector's cabinet, nursery display, or interior with an appreciation for antique folk art and historic toys.

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