

Large Grodnertal Wooden Peg Doll, Circa 1830

£325



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.