

German dolls usually have cardboard pates under their wigs, while French dolls have cork pates. But not all French dolls have cork pates. Steiner dolls had a heavy papier-mâché pate. Schmitt dolls had a flesh-colored, cardboard pate. Pates could have been changed over the years. People often put new cork pates on French dolls, regardless of the make of the doll.

Many German dolls have holes in the sides or back of the head to tie sleep eyes for shipping. Sleep eyes have a weight that swings back and forth, and the weight could crack the porcelain. String was tied around the weight and through the holes. A child's mother cut the string so the eyes would work. French dolls do not have these holes. An exception to this rule is the sleep-eyed SFBJ dolls.

French dolls sometimes have a bald or closed head with two or three holes. Dolls with closed heads are usually referred to as *Belton type*. Holes were used to tie on the wig and to string the doll. Wire on the end of elastic from the legs came up through the neck and through one of the holes. It was bent down through another hole. It was an inexpensive, inferior way to string a doll.

**Ears**—Applied ears are an indication a doll is French. To date, we have found no exceptions. Pierced ears usually indicate a French doll, but occasionally we also find a German doll with pierced ears.

**Mouths**—Most people think if a doll has a closed mouth, it is French. The closed mouth is a good indication a doll is French, but there are many exceptions. German doll-making companies made some closed-mouth dolls, such as the Simon & Halbig Nos. 919, 929 and 949. Kämmer & Reinhardt made many dolls with closed mouths, as did other doll makers.

On the other hand, A. Thuillier and Steiner made open-mouthed dolls with two rows of teeth. Even Jumeau made a doll with two rows of teeth. We should say, "The most-desirable French dolls have closed mouths."

**Bodies**—The bodies of French and German dolls are different. The French doll body is stocky and well-formed, with large hands and feet. The German body is thin, hands are tiny and hands and feet are out of proportion. Early French bodies had unjointed wrists, but later



Belton-type doll, 17 inches tall, marked 1 with an R on stem of 1. Maker is unknown.

jointed wrists were made. The German doll body had loose ball-joints, as did the early Jumeau bodies. Later, French doll makers did not use loose ball-joints in the hips, shoulders, arms and knees.

**Costumes**—Original French clothing can be an indication a doll is French. But you must realize clothing could have been changed.

**What to Look for**—To summarize, look for the following things in a French doll:

- Markings
- Paperweight eyes
- Pressed porcelain
- Unbroken, unjointed wrists
- Sliced-off head
- Cork pate
- Applied ears
- Pierced ears
- Closed mouth
- Original French clothing

There are exceptions to this list. It's wise to buy marked heads, but there have been exceptions even with these. Some Jumeau heads, such as the Portrait Jumeau and Long-Faced Jumeau, are marked only with numbers. Some A.T. and Bru dolls are marked only on the shoulderplate. If a leather body has disintegrated and the head is put on a composition body, all identification is lost, and the head is considered unmarked.

Right: Incised France SFBJ 247 Paris, doll is 28 inches tall and sometimes called the *Twirp*. This later doll has real lashes and sleep eyes. He has an open-closed mouth.