



## PAPIER MÂCHÉ DOLLS

### *Above*

This doll standing beside her hand-painted sedan chair has a secret under her skirt: she is mounted on a wide wooden reel, and when placed on a slightly inclined board she appears to walk down it. The hairstyle dates this doll at about 1865 with its puffs and braids at the side and a painted comb holding the smooth chignon at the back. Round her neck is painted a choker necklace and she has painted earrings. This is one of the unusual dolls which occasionally come to light, and make doll collecting such a fascinating hobby.

### *Right*

Papier mâché doll of about 1840 with a hand-sewn fine kid body and wooden lower arms and legs with flat painted feet known to some collectors as a 'milliner's model'. This doll was sold to me recently by an elderly lady who said that it had been used in her family since her great-grandmother's day as a model on which to design clothes for the daughters of the family. Because of its history, this doll came without its original clothes. This is unusual as these dolls are usually found with all their beautifully fashioned original clothes.



### *Left*

An interesting papier mâché head on its original body made of loosely stuffed linen with leather arms. The body is badly proportioned, which would not have been conducive to the fashioning of fine clothes for her. This may account for these dolls often being found with rather shapeless original clothes. The hair with its long side ringlets and braided bun at the back was the style of 1835, and the material for the clothes is of the same period, so this doll is easily dated.