



President's Message

Being a collector there have been many times over the years when someone has asked me "what is that doll worth?" Often the question has come from someone outside the doll world who is either amazed that dolls have any monetary value or who thinks their dilapidated attic find is going to finance the family vacation home. I have usually ended up talking with them about the various types of value that apply to dolls; market value, insurance value, historic value, artistic value, and sentimental value. These values often come as a surprise to non-collectors.

Within the collecting hobby we understand the values associated with our dolls. We think carefully about spending our doll funds to add a doll to our collection; we appreciate the value of each doll's place in history; we value dolls as the pieces of art that they are; we insure our collections in case of disaster; we have personal connections to dolls that have been passed down through our families or that have previously belonged to friends; we make plans for what happens to our collections after we are gone all because we care about our dolls.

But what value do we place on our hobby itself? Recognizing why dolls are so special it follows that keeping the hobby of doll collecting strong is extremely important to maintaining all the aspects of our dolls' value. The monetary value of dolls is market driven. To uphold that value fledgling collectors need to be encouraged and educated so that market demand stays strong and so that our dolls will continue to be preserved, studied and enjoyed for generations to come. Many times the historic value of dolls is underappreciated, even by museums and historical societies. It is doll collectors who need to continuously promote the fact that dolls are historical artifacts, relating the human story and providing a means of understanding ourselves and our neighbors. It is up to doll collectors to help expose the world to the beauty of dolls and guide others in the appreciation of the art and workmanship expressed in dolls.

When we value something precious we naturally want to protect it. No outside group, government agency, or other charitable organization understands the value of dolls as we collectors do. We are the ones who have to protect and nurture the hobby we love.

This is the value of UFDC. UFDC, *your* doll club, is dedicated to the protection and preservation of all types of dolls, to the sharing of educational materials relating to dolls, and to spreading the comradery of doll collecting by promoting awareness of our hobby.

We are the caretakers of our dolls and through UFDC we have the power to shape the present and the future of doll collecting. Supporting UFDC in whatever way you are able protects the true value of your dolls.



Linda Edward
UFDC President