

Albert Marque dolls, their original costumes and labeling

This listing is by no means complete. We are depending on printed information that we assume is correct. It will be added to as we hear from members that have information to add, change, or correct, or when we find more information ourselves.

- The list has been sorted the following way:
 - A. Margaine-Lacroix-labeled costumes
 - B. Original costumes with lack of information about Margaine-Lacroix label
- Where we were unable to verify the originality, this has been noted
- Costumes, supposedly authentically recreated, have been so indicated
- All illustrations referred to are in color, unless marked "B/W."

Background:

Galerie Margaine Lacroix exhibited dolls in Paris in 1915, and the sales of the A. Marque dolls seem to have taken off right away. Francois Theimer, the French doll expert, says: "She sold only some, and when the shop closed some dolls were still in the inventory in their original box..."

To learn more about the history of A. Marque and the dolls, refer to the article, *A Marque, une petite histoire*, published in *DOLLS Beautiful* 2004-3, page 27 (in English).

— A —

A-1-2. Pair (boy and girl) in regional/peasant costumes (belonged to Mildred Seeley)

The boy's jacket bears the Margaine Lacroix label. Regarding the girl's costume, Theriault's notes: "original costume attributed to Margaine Lacroix." M. Seeley bought the boy (marked number 19) in 1978, and the girl in 1979, from Gay's Doll House and Museum in Maggie, N. Carolina. The owner, Gaynell Denson, had earlier bought the dolls from a dealer, Harriet Miller, who offered for sale six A. Marques around 1939. Mrs. Miller was the owner of Whimsey Antiques, Arlington, Vermont.

The dolls have since been sold by Theriault's. The boy in 2002 to Lucy A. Morgan, Florida, and the girl in 2005.



Illustration: Postcard from Gay's Doll House and Museum - from before 1978. Note the hats. The girl's bonnet is the same on this picture as in illustrations in M Seeley's books. The boy's hat looks like a straw hat with a brim, but is shaped as a large béret, made by the softest and finest braided straw. ↓

Illustrations:

M. Seeley: *Lady Dolls*, pg 79 - both
Fabulous French Bebes, pg 8 - both
How to Collect French Bebe Dolls, cover, pg 8 - both
Doll Collecting for Fun and Profit, pgs 72-73 - both (no hat on girl)
For the Love of Dolls and Roses, Pg 113 - both
Judging Dolls, pg 116 - both
Project Milettes, pg 75 - both
Children Dolls, Vol. II, French Dolls, pg 79 - boy
Seeley's Catalog for Dollmakers, D-39, cover - both
Therault's *For the Love of Dolls*, lot # 7, pages 12-13 - boy
Therault's *Magnifique!* - lot # 7, - girl (replacement hat)
Antique Doll Collector, April 2005, inside front cover, - girl (replacement hat)

Reproduction Patterns: A. Marque Boy Milette-size costume, CP1102 (Seeley's)
A. Marque Girl Milette-size costume, CP1103 (Seeley's)

A-3-4. Twins in original, labeled, Persian Costumes, latest seen at the Museum of Old Dolls and Toys, Winter Haven, Florida

At some point, this museum was moved from New Hampshire to Florida. The museum closed some time after 1982, and the dolls were sold.



Illustrations:

Doll News, a 1978 cover, same ill. as postcard to the left
François Theimer "*Encyclopedia Polichinelle*", Vol. 5, pg 29, same postcard ill. (B/W)
DOLLS Beautiful 2004-3, pg 27, reproductions of both costumes
The Doll Artisan magazine, April/May 1982, repro. costumes are illustrated in color on the cover, and in several older Seeley catalogs in B/W.

Reproduction pattern:

CP7001: Both Persian costumes for the #M12 Seeley body (discontinued). Would need to be enlarged and adjusted for the new #M145S Seeley Marque body.

To the left, the antique French bisque twins, the dark-haired boy with brown eyes, the blond boy with blue eyes. Persian costumes, trimmed with semi-precious stones.

This old postcard from the Museum of Old Dolls & Toys, New Hampshire, is postmarked 1967.

A-5-9. The Five A. Marque Queens in original, labeled, royal French costumes at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dolls were purchased in 1916. Not currently on exhibit.

Queen Marie Antoinette ((1755-1793), doll number 36. Costumed in cream crepe trimmed with brown fur, blue velvet coat also trimmed with fur and matching beret with white feather. The dress and shoes were replaced in 1971.

Queen Marie Leszczyńska (1703-1768), doll number 37. Dress overlaid with gold lace and a blue velvet cloak, lined with imitation ermine.

Queen Isabeau de Bavière (1371-1438), doll number 38. Dressed in tan silk cloak, trimmed with brown fur and gold hennin with white veil. Brocade shoes. Cloak lined with fur fabric imitating ermine.

Empress Joséphine (1763-1814), doll number 39. Costumed in beige crepe empire-line dress trimmed with gold braid with red beads, and red and gold fringe trim.

Empress Eugénie (1826-1920), doll number 40. Dressed in tree-tiered full skirt of beige silk. Bodice embroidered with rose motif on front - dress falling apart. Wide-brimmed, light straw hat trimmed with shocking pink and white ribbon and two bunches of artificial flowers.

Each doll came packed in its own custom-made box, covered with beautiful French flowered wallpaper. The special **stands** were made of chrome steel with looped wires embracing the chest. The stand's vertical rod has a screw to permit the adjustment of the stand to the doll's height. Some of the **wigs** are natural hair and others mohair. A **cardboard pate** covers the open crown of the bisque head. Each doll wears the same design **underwear** of fine white batiste, trimmed with lace and ribbon. This is a one-piece garment made up of panty, petticoat, and camisole. Some have a hoopskirt or crinoline under a very full skirt.

Shoes* are made of silk, brocade or leather. The basic design is a single strap slipper tied with ribbon. Soles are impressed with a full-length figure of a girl, beneath which is the word DEPOSÉ. Shoe soles are illustrated in Lydia Richter's *Puppenstars, PuppenAlbum 6* on page 13. Shoes and soles also in Marlowe Cooper's *LES PETITES*, Doll Home Library Series, Vol. 8 (© 1971), pg 14.

(The detail information above, mainly excerpted from *Doll Collectors Manual 1983*, has been included, as the Manual might be impossible to find.)

Illustrations:

Gildebrief magazine, 2/2003, pgs 6-26 and cover. Detailed study of the different costumes, shoes, hats and underwear. Compare slight variations on the underwear and the different shoe styles. History.

Doll Collectors Manual 1983 (The Doll Collectors of America, Inc.) Article by Rosemarye Bunting. Queen Marie Antoinette (costume replaced), underwear, stand, pgs 66-69 (B/W)

M Seeley, *French Dolls (revised 1982)*, pg. 72, approximate drawings of Queen Marie's and Queen Marie Antoinette's costumes.

The Best of Dollreader, Vol. 3, foggy pictures (B/W)

*Patterns for reproduction shoes:

Shoe pattern for 16" doll in M. Seeley's *French Doll*, pg 69

Doll Artisan, March/April 1996, shoe pattern for Seeley's M15S compo body, pg 41

A-10. A. Marque girl in 1916 knee-length dress with horizontal pleating on skirt and sleeves.

No color illustrations have been found. The costume was illustrated in a French pamphlet, *Renaissance de la Poupée Française*, published in 1916. (This strongly indicates that the costume is original to Margaine Lacroix, and therefore has been included on the A-list,) The doll is costumed in an above-the-knee length dress and elbow-length sleeves. Looks like the hat and collar are of fur.

Illustrations:

Coleman, *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Dolls, Vol. II*, page 801, ill. 1797 (B/W)
F. Theimer, "Encyclopedia" *Polichinelle, Vol. 5* (1997), pg. 28 (B/W fuzzy)

A-11. A. Marque girl in labeled turquoise and peach regional costume. No 16 sewn on skirt.

The doll, from the estate holdings of the Lumiere family, France, was sold in 1999 by Theriault's to Julia "Dudie" Roat, Ohio. Then again in 2004 by Frasher's auction house - with new hat.

Original silk regional costume. Turquoise dress with embroidered and velvet borders and built-in waist bustle. Peach silk apron with matching trim; white batiste blouse, brown leather shoes. Original hat missing.

Illustrations:

Theriault's *Century Remembered* catalog # 995, lot no 17
Antique Doll Collector magazine, Nov/Dec 1998, cover and pg 29
Antique Doll Collector magazine, March 1999, pg 76 (costume to below hands)
Antique Doll Collector magazine, May 2004, pg 15 (with new hat)
Frasher's "Mademoiselle Marque & Company" catalog, March 13-14, 2004, Meza, Arizona

A-12. A. Marque girl in labeled ethnic dress at the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art, Bellevue, Washington

The doll, marked number 6, came from England with Vera Kramer, the owner and curator of the Doll in Wonderland Museum. It was exhibited at the museum in St. Augustine, Florida, dressed as a matchstick girl; only the long straight wig was original. The museum closed, and the A Marque was sold to Rosalie Whyel around 1990. The doll now has a Margaine Lacroix labeled dress. The head dress is not original.

"The dress is an unusual combination of pastel printed geometric shapes combined with bright colored wool embroidery. It is done simply and sparingly throughout the dress and down the wide straight sleeves. The dress is collarless with a yarn tie neckline. The front and back skirt have loose waist-attached panels or aprons that are nearly the size of the entire skirt and they "tie" in long yarn tassels at the left side." (*Ant. Doll Collector*, Oct. 2001)

Illustration:

Antique Doll Collector magazine, October 2001, pg 20

— B —

B-1. A. Marque girl in original regional costume at the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, Rochester, New York

Doll is costumed in lace-up vest/bolero of burgundy velvet, edged with gold ribbon, and off-white blouse with long sleeves, ending in a wide ruffle. High-waisted beige long skirt, decorated with a diamond-shaped grid design, with red and pink flowers and green leaves inserted in the diamonds. Floral border, edged in green, at the hem of the skirt. From the Alsace region.

Illustrations:

Babes 'N' Toyland, UFDC 1983 convention souvenir book, pg 57

Colemans, *The Collectors Encyclopedia of Dolls, Vol. II*, pg 802 (B/W)

William C. Ketchum Jr., *The Collections of the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum*, pg 47, (B/W)

Carl Fox, *The Doll*, plate 131 (B/W), pg 213, (B/W)

Reproduction of the costume is illustrated in color in *DOLLS Beautiful* magazine, 2004-3, cover and pgs 24, 26. (Pattern not available)

B-2. All original girl in tartan silk dress and matching béret/bonnet

This doll was sold at auction in 1982 and described by Barbara Spadaccini as “an all original doll.” It was sold again in London in 1996 as part of the Diana Vierny Collection.

The short dress is made of silk in a large checkered/tartan design, green velvet jacket decorated with cording and fur collar, brown leather lace-up boots and a tam-o’shanter cap in matching tartan decorated with plumes.

Illustrations:

Sotheby's October 17-18 1996 catalog, lot no. 451

International Toy & Doll Collector, No 12, UK, back cover (B/W)

The Doll & Toy Collector, July/Aug 1983, pg 32 (B/W, head and part of jacket)

François Theimer, *Polichinelle*, no 6, April 1982, pg 5 (B/W, head and part of jacket)

DOLL magazine #16, U.K., Oct/Nov 1996

B-3. A. Marque boy in Eastern European (Russian?) folk costume. Doll marked 23 in red

This doll was part of the Diana Vierny Collection that was sold in London in 1996.

The costume, most likely original, and surely old, consists of pure silk long pants and polychrome top with silk sleeves, long blue velvet vest trimmed with fur and applied with embroidered panels; hat fur-trimmed and decorated with metal thread. White fur lace-up shoes.

Illustration:

Sotheby's October 17-18 1996 catalog, lot no. 450

DOLL magazine #16, U.K., Oct/Nov 1996

B-4. A. Marque girl in folklore-type costume. Marked no 22 in red.

Doll is costumed in a burgundy taffeta skirt, white batiste and lace blouse, dark green jacket with gold braid and buttons. Red bonnet with red lace veil (?) in back. In the collection of Lucy A Morgan. No information about the originality of the costume.

Mildred Seeley describes the same or a very similar A. Marque costume this way: "Green velvet jacket with light green trim. White blouse. Salmon taffeta skirt. Velvet and tapestry-like material for head-dress." Three-quarter sleeves with ruffled lace edge showing.

Illustrations:

Antique Doll Collector magazine, December 2002, pg 22, top and part of skirt shown.

M Seeley, *French Dolls*, (revised 1982) Pg 65, B/W ill. of entire doll. Pg 73, drawing of same doll with notation "original costume."

B-5. A. Marque girl in original short burgundy dress and matching jacket.

Illustrations of this doll have been submitted by the Swiss antique dealer, Alfred Barsotti for Lydia Richter's book, *Puppenstars, PuppenAlbum 6*.

Mrs. Richter describes the costume as original (no mention of any label), as well as with original human hair wig and original incised shoes.

The costume is of burgundy wool, decorated with crème ribbon and a big crème-colored bow on the jacket front. Underwear is decorated with lace.

Illustrations:

Lydia Richter *Puppenstars, PuppenAlbum 6*, pg 13 (entire costume, plus close-up of original shoe soles), pgs 76-77.

B-6. A. Marque girl in the Musée de la Poupée, Paris, France, in original costume

M. Samy Odin, owner of the museum has this to say:

This doll is marked number 5 with pencil under the foot. It has a small original wardrobe, including a labeled Margaine Lacroix outfit. The brown outfit the doll wears in the published pictures is part of its original wardrobe but does not bear the Margaine Lacroix label.

The doll will be part of the main course of a future publication with more pictures of the doll.

Illustrations:

Antique Doll Collector magazine, October 2002, pg 8 (to below waist)

Antique Doll Collector magazine, January 2003, pg 61 (to below waist)

B-7-11. Five A. Marque girls costumed in white batiste, decorated with lace, ribbon inserts, and large ribbon bows.

These costumes are all similar, all typical of the time, 1910-1920.

There is no information about any of them whether the costumes are labeled or original to the dolls. ↓

The first three dolls are illustrated in the book, *LES PETITES*, © 1971, all costumed similarly but with small variations. The doll called *Charmange*, is mentioned to be costumed “as she was when she won a first prize at the Boston Convention, 1955.” All three are holding lace parasols. No hats. From Hazel and Raymond Knapp’s collection. The doll, mentioned as blonde, is shown on the back cover in color with the ribbon insert being salmon-colored. This doll is also illustrated in *Art of Dolls*, © 1985. Same owner. The doll is numbered 22, or possibly 29.

The fourth doll, owned by Gail Cook, has dark red original shoes, tied with matching, red cord. Pale pink or salmon ribbon inserts, similar dress and stockings as the first three mentioned. The doll is illustrated in color in *Doll News*.

The fifth doll, owned by Elisabeth McIntyre, wears a wide brimmed straw-hat, decorated with lace and ribbon. The lace decoration on the bodice is fastened in a V-shape design, whereas all the other costumes have the lace added in a rounded fashion. The shoe design is slightly different from the classic A.Marque shoe. Jan Foulke notes: “appropriate clothes, some original.” (The doll was supposedly sold by Theriault’s at some time??)

Illustrations:

- Dolls 1-3: Marlowe Cooper, *LES PETITES*, Vol. 8 in her *Doll Home Library Series*, pages 14 (shoes), 15, 16 and back cover (pgs 14-16 B/W)
 Madeline O. Merrill, *Art of Dolls*, pg 280, ill. 638 (B/W)
 Doll 4: *Doll News* (UFDC) magazine, Spring 1997, pg 28
 Doll 5: Jan Foulke 7th *Blue Book*, pg 279 (B/W)
 François Theimer “*Encyclopedia*” *Polichinelle*, Vol. 5, pg 30 (B/W)

Reproduction pattern: CP707 (Seeley’s), white batiste costume, decorated with lace and inserted ribbon. Fits Seeleys # M15S Marque body. Illustrated in *Doll Artisan*, Jan/Febr 1996 pg 32, which also has instructions for the wig.

Shoe Pattern: *Doll Artisan*, March/April 1996, pg. 41, for Seeley’s M15S compo body.

B-12. A Marque girl, number 50 in red dress, which may be original

Doll was sold by the original owner Emilienne Berger, Paris, via Theriault’s in 2002. The costume is described: “antique dress which may be original.” Red Satin blouse, with lace collar and cuffs, wool skirt, antique bonnet. “Undergarment that bears the cloth label** of “Margaine-Lacroix” boutique.”

Illustrations:

Theriault’s catalog no 1029, *Promises of Paris*, Jan 5, 2002, lot no 24, and cover
Antique Doll Collector magazine, March 2002, pg 10

**Notes regarding the Margaine Lacroix label.

Two versions of this label do exist. The text is the same on both, but one has a distinct older look than the other, plus on the other - newer? - label the text on the second line is set differently. On the older-looking one, all the text is set in “Roman,” that is straight up and down letters. On the other one, the second line of the text is set in “*Italics.*,” that is, *forward-leaning letters*. It is possible that the Margaine-Lacroix company had two versions; it is also possible that the antique label has been replicated. ↓

Find the older-looking label in:

Gildebrief magazine, 2-2003, pg 11 (see A-5-9 above)
 M. Seeley, *Doll Costuming*, pg 12 (B/W) (see A-1-2 above)
 Theriault's catalog 995, lot 17 (see A-11 above)

Find the newer-looking label in:

Theriault's catalog 832, *Cameos*, Jan 1983, lot 30 (B/W)
 Theriault's catalog 1029, lot 24 (see B-12 above)

PS**Please help us find out more about this
A Marque Boy doll!**

The doll - number 27 - was part of the collection in the Doll Museum in Stein am Rhein, Switzerland. The museum has closed and the dolls have been sold. Illustrated here is a postcard from the museum.

If you have information about any A Marque doll that you would like to see included here, please do contact Doll Artisan Guild via email to info@DollArtisanGuild.org

or send a note to:

Doll Artisan Guild, Attn. RME.
 PO Box 1113
 Oneonta, NY 13820-5113, USA



With heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent information about A Marques for this listing, and especially to Eva Oscarsson, editor emeritus of *The Doll Artisan*. Without her help, this list would have been a lot shorter.

Ragnhild Margareta Ericson

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