



Eighteenth Century Dolls Head

Dolls from the eighteenth century are relatively uncommon today; this example was a family heirloom and much cherished.

The main conservation work was that associated with the clothing, something which was handled by a textile conservator. Only the wooden head and chest of the doll, with simple limbs made from wood and string, was brought to the studio for cleaning and minor retouching.

The client, quite rightly, did not want the doll to look 'restored'; but was looking to have the aesthetic appearance improved whilst retaining qualities of age. This was partly achieved through surface cleaning which made a considerable difference. Following on from this the broken nose was re-formed and a cut in the wood through the dolls left eyebrow was filled, both were then retouched. Some retouching was also carried out to the lips which had lost much of their colour.

When working on the dolls head it was surprising how life-like it was, something which may not come across so well in these photographs.

