

My Love Affair

with the

*Mein Liebling K*R 117*

by Darlene Lane

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to study an exquisite 34" Mein Liebling belonging to Sandy Kralovetz. Sandy was kind enough to bring the doll into her doll shop so I could examine it carefully and use her to paint my reproduction head. I'm forever grateful for that precious opportunity.

Having the antique doll in front of me while I painted my reproduction was an experience I'll always treasure. The following comes directly from my notes as I described her beautiful face.

To begin: Upon removing the wig and pate, the first thing I viewed was the original bisque color inside the head. It was very white, with intense blue undertones. In today's market we call this blue white, but this antique bisque was much bluer than anything I've ever seen; a gorgeous deep mauve with strong blue undertones. So much blue! It would be hard to

*Antique Simon Halbig Mein Liebling K*R 117A. Courtesy of Sandy Kralovetz, Sandy's Dream Dolls, Glendale, AZ.*



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duplicate using our present day slip, but we came close.

Moving down the face: In describing the eyebrows, I'll start with the shadow brow. Those start directly above the tear duct areas. The stroked hairs go beyond this into the bridge of the nose, but the shadow is clearly visible through these feathered strokes. The color is very dark taupe brown. There are no red undertones in this brown.

The brows start at the bridge of the nose and end at the outside corner of the eye openings. Most of the brow color is concentrated just past the center of the eye openings.

The lashes are dark gray and quite long at the tear duct area. The first few upper lashes are straight and long and do not come from within each eye opening, but ever so slightly above it.

The lashes are pulled from a puddle and are almost straight up with very little slant. They begin to slant about halfway through each eye.

What I find interesting is that they are not perfect! There are several that either have been painted over or the brush hairs split while the stroke was being pulled. They are not exactly spaced or the same intensity, yet they are still beautiful to behold. You could say, "They are perfect in their imperfection."

The inside corners of the eye openings are not pointed but softened or slightly rounded, and there are no eye dots in the tear duct areas. The upper eyes are lined, but the bottom is not.

The nose dots are the same color as the lips and small with no visible blending of any kind.

The lips match Bell's German Lip china paint color (not too pale). They have a translucence to them and are slightly darker through the center of the upper lip along the bottom edge. The upper lip corners come to a point and extend beyond the bottom lip.

The bottom lip is flat or straight across the bottom edge and the sides of the bottom meet the top lip without much tapering or slanting.

The cheeks appear to have no orange undertones at all, possibly due to the very blue porcelain upon which they are painted. The darkest part of the cheeks are the lower center or lower part of the cheek apples. There is no blush across the chin.

Comparative China Paints

The colors I would use to paint Mein Liebling are:

Wash: Equal parts German Blush and French Blush with 1/4 part Flux. Or, 4 parts German Blush, 1 part Blue Eyes and ? part Flux. Be sure to mix this very well with Water Base Painting Medium

Lashes: Mix Tuxedo Black with Water Base Painting Medium; thin with Water Base Lip Additive. Paint with a

Supplies

MD2554 K*R117 Mein Liebling Head Mold
20" Composition German Body
Costume Pattern
Wig: Mohair & Wet 'N Set Wig Kit
Cleaning Supplies
PC1003 Blue White Porcelain Slip

China Paints & Mediums

CPO387 German Lips
CPO391 German Blush
CPO385 French Blush
CPO305 Flux
CPO275 Water Base Painting Medium
CPO373 Tuxedo Black
CPO 295 Water Base Lip Additive
CPO 302 Gloss White
CPO 390 Taupe Brow
CPO 320 Blue Eyes (Alternate)

Brushes:

RBB204 Precision Brow
RBB207 Pro Liner
RBB006 Blusher Mop

Pro Liner brush.

If you are heavy handed, try adding Gloss White to lighten this black into a gray. (I simply use more Water Base Lip Additive on my brush to dilute the intensity of the black to appear gray.)

Eyebrows: Mix Taupe Brow with Water Base Painting Medium, thin with Water Base Lip Additive. Apply with the Precision Brow brush.

Lips: Mix German Lips with Water Base Painting Medium.

Cheeks: French Blush

Keep in mind there are no eye dots, no eye shadow, a single dot in each nostril, no lower eye liner, and no blush across the chin.

There are no two antique dolls that are painted exactly alike, so study as many antique dolls or photos as possible. Then take notes on what you see.

Costume made by Carolyn Lanese from a Pat Allen pattern. ♥