



**For Immediate Release**

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**Candy Spelling's Collection of 350 Madame Alexander Dolls**

**are to be Auctioned in New York City**

*Rare opportunity to view and purchase vintage and antique dolls*

**October 12, 2011 – New York, NY** – An auction of Candy Spelling's collection of 350 Madame Alexander vintage and antique dolls will be held by the specialty antique doll firm Theriault's at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, on November 20, 2011. The evening before the auction, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, The Alexander Doll Company will host a special preview event at their headquarters in Harlem, New York, and Candy Spelling will be on hand to meet the public and sign auction catalogs. To attend the preview at The Alexander Doll Company, please RSVP to Theriault's by calling 800-638-0422 or emailing [info@theriaults.com](mailto:info@theriaults.com).

The Candy Spelling collection will be on exhibit at the Waldorf-Astoria on Sunday, November 20 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and is open to the public. The auction will begin at 11:00 AM, and is also open to the public. A 140-page full color catalog commemorating the collection features gorgeous color photographs and historical information and description of each of the dolls.

When Aaron and Candy Spelling built their famed 125 room, 56,500 square foot French-style chateau in the Holmsby Hills area of Los Angeles in 1988, it was decorated with the finest collections of European antiques, furnishings, chandeliers, paintings and decorative objects.

Included in this special collection of objects were the superb dolls of Madame Alexander whose dolls are considered the aristocracy of American dolls, not only for their subject matter as queens and princesses and 19<sup>th</sup> century elegant ladies, but also for the luxurious detail with which they and their costumes were created. Hundreds of unique examples of these dolls peopled the Spelling gallery, mostly from the vintage golden years of the 1950s.

This year, the splendid Spelling chateau was sold, and now, on Sunday, November 20, this magnificent collection of dolls will come to auction at the historic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New

York, Conducted by the specialty antique doll firm of Theriault's, the auction will feature 350 outstanding examples including the rarest early portrait models such as Victorian Bride, red-haired Pink Champagne lady, Judy portrait, and Deborah Ballerina. There are Godey ladies and gentlemen, rare models from the Coronation series including Estrella, dolls from the Me and My Shadow series including Mary Louise, Victoria and Agatha.

"Most of these dolls are so rare that they only appear on the market every ten years or so", notes cataloguer Florence Theriault, adding "And to find them in such impeccable condition is just pure pleasure".

The collection also includes dolls from the rare biblical series, a number of Wendy models inspired by *Gone with the Wind* including Aunt Pitty- Pat, Cousin Grace, Nana, Cousin Karen, and Aunt Agatha, and a baker's dozen of rare dolls created exclusively for FAO Schwarz during the 1950's. There are plentiful and exquisite examples of the Alexander fashion icons, Cissy, Elise and Cissette, and legendary Alexander models costumed by the couturiers of the Ice Capades. The 8" Alexander child charmer, Wendy-kins, has been a special favorite of Candy Spelling, and rare examples are offered including fashionable children, ballerinas, storybook princesses, brides, clowns, and dolls in historical fashions.

"This was a collection that was assembled over a twenty year period with taste and discrimination" says Stuart Holbrook, president of Theriault's. "Candy Spelling had frequented our auctions throughout her collecting years and I knew her to be a determined and passionate collector when choice dolls came on the market. Yet not until I saw her collection in its entirety did I realize the careful thought that had preceded every acquisition."

The Alexander doll firm was founded in 1923 by the "Madame" Beatrice Alexander, daughter of Russian immigrants. The family enterprise was a doll hospital, and the young Beatrice spent her childhood playing with the dolls that were waiting to be mended. During the early 1920s, she became inspired to create new dolls, and her enterprise quickly grew from its kitchen beginnings to a downtown New York City studio and eventually to its present headquarters in Harlem, New York. Her formidable empire of dolls has earned Madame Alexander and the Alexander Doll Company acclaim and fashion awards for nearly a century.