Woman Doll Dealer Charged by FBI With Writing Code Letters

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—A woman dealer in antique dolls whom the Federal Bureau of Investigation said formerly had numerous Japanese connections was arrested by FBI agents today and charged with sending coded messages to South America.

The FBI identified her as Velvalee Dickinson, 50, who operates an exclusive doll shop patronized by a wealthy clientele, including many members of the Hollywood movie colony.

Her arrest was announced by Special Agent E. E. Conroy, who said Mrs. Dickinson sent many coded messages to South America concealed in apparently innocent letters discussing sales of dolls. She signed the letters with forged names of her customers, Mr. Conroy said.

He refused to reveal the contents of the coded messages.

Explaining the charge was made under censorship laws, Mr. Conroy said it was unlawful for a person to wilfully evade submission of any communication to censorship or to employ a code to conceal a message from censorship.

He added that the law provides a maximum penalty of fines totaling $10,000 or 10 years in prison or both.

Mr. Conroy said Mrs. Dickinson was a member of the Japanese-American Society until 1937 and, while a California resident, handled brokerage accounts for Japanese in the Imperial Valley and was well known to Japanese consular officials.

After she came to New York with her husband, who died in 1943, Mrs. Dickinson frequented the Japan Institute, Mr. Conroy said.

The FBI identified Mrs. Dickinson as the former V. Malvena Blucher and said she was born in Sacramento.