

Three magnificent lifetime collections form cornerstones of Bertoia's much-anticipated September 22, 2018 Signature Sale



Ben Michel Marklin Train Collection



Frank Mohr Mechanical Toy Collection



Doug Jackman Still Bank Collection

"We are so excited about this sale," said Jeanne Bertoia. "Just reading over the catalog descriptions and seeing the consistently superior quality throughout tells us this will be one of the auction milestones that collectors will remember and talk about for years to come."





VINELAND, N.J. – Antique toy collectors know that each and every Bertoia auction is planned with quality, rarity and authenticity as its foundation, whether it's a premium-level Signature Sale or a boutique-style online-only Bertoia Basics event. Bertoia's sales often bring together outstanding, handpicked consignments from a broad variety of collections, creating buying opportunities across many subcategories. But every so often, the revered New Jersey auction house is privileged to offer the toy community the crème de la crème of only a few esteemed collections in one big day of buying and selling. That will be the case on Saturday, September 22nd, when Bertoia's presents a Fall Signature Sale showcasing Benjamin Michel's Marklin trains and stations, Douglas Jackman's still banks, and Frank Mohr's Martin and early American clockwork toys, and automata.





The 60-year Frank Mohr collection is “one of the all-time greats,” Jeanne said. An ATCA member who bought consistently from fellow collectors and dealers at shows, as well as at many major auctions, Mohr always had a penchant for toys that were mechanical or had some sort of movement. He is especially well known for his peerless collection of French-made Fernand Martin clockwork toys, many of which are accompanied by their original boxes. Also reflecting his fascination for 19th and early 20th-century mechanical technology, Mohr amassed an enviable collection of European automata.





Delving into early American tin and bell toys, Mohr employed the same successful mantra he had used in building his other specialty collections: buy the best and leave the rest. Among the jewels in his collection are several rare Jerome Secor African-American musician automata, a George Brown clockwork hoop toy with boy figure (ex Max Berry collection), an Althof Bergmann goat bell toy, and his most highly prized acquisition, the only known Ives Cutter Sleigh that is intact with its original figure. Manufactured around 1893, the Cutter Sleigh is considered by many experts to be the finest American toy ever produced. Mohr's exceptional near-mint example boasts a long line of provenance that includes the Max Berry collection, the Covert and Gertrude Hegarty collection, and Philadelphia's Perelman Antique Toy Museum.



Frank & Jean Mohr at ATCA Convention





COLLECTOR PROFILE:

Frank Mohr
 Home: Naples, Florida
 Profession: Retired Presbyterian minister
 Specialty: Fernand Martin and early American clockwork toys; automata



How the collection began: "I became friends with ATCA members Carl and Jessie Behr, who had a couple of toys that I owned as a youngster and wanted very badly. They had a Pullman car that was outfitted and very well detailed, with seating areas that made into berths for sleeping. There were china 'passengers' – figures with strung arms and legs. Also, early on I bought a boat that was made just after the American Revolution. That was one of the oldest toys I ever purchased."

How I acquired so many Martins: "I had bought many toys from Bob and Marianne Schneider, including several Secor toys – Sister Lucinda, the Bones Player, Banjo Player, and Tambourine Player. I started buying Martin toys from them because they were charming and so different – they weren't like German, Italian, English or American toys of their time. I ended up with 134 Martins collected from 1980 to the present day, including some prototypes that never went into production."

Other things I've collected: Native American Skookum dolls

My favorite toy: "The last one I found is always my favorite."

The second featured collection of the auction's golden triad is Douglas Jackman's superb assemblage of still banks. A widely respected New England dealer who co-owns Stephen Douglas Antiques in Rockingham, Vermont, Jackman vigilantly scoured high-end Americana and general antiques shows for rare banks throughout his 40-year collecting odyssey. His dedication and skill at networking with other dealers, who often set aside still-bank discoveries specifically for him, resulted in a collection that numbers 1,295 banks, many of them quite rare.

The list of highlights in the Jackman collection is long and impressive. Its contents include: a Detroit Street Savings bank believed to be a sole survivor, an Alphabet bank, and one of few known Bunker Hill banks. Both his General Butler and Peters Weatherbird banks exhibit fantastic original paint. Additionally, there are extremely rare examples of a Billy Possum, Canadian Beaver, and one of only two or three known Beehive banks in the yellow-painted variation.





COLLECTOR PROFILE:

Douglas Jackman
 Home: Rockingham, Vermont
 Profession: Owner of Douglas Jackman Antiques
 Specialty: Still banks



Collection's contents: Around 1,295 still banks, including rare color variations and German spelter banks

How the collection began: "When I first started doing antiques, I visited Wayne Pratt's shop, which was down the road from my grandfather's farm. He had toys and both still and mechanical banks. I was taken with the colorful still banks and bought my first one from him, a large Lion bank.

A surprising find: "There have been two surprising finds. One of my favorite banks that I didn't have was an Alphabet bank. Then one day out of the blue, a neighbor of mine who knew I collected banks offered one to me that he had picked out of a house. He had no idea I had been looking far and wide for an Alphabet bank, and here he finds one in the next town over from me."

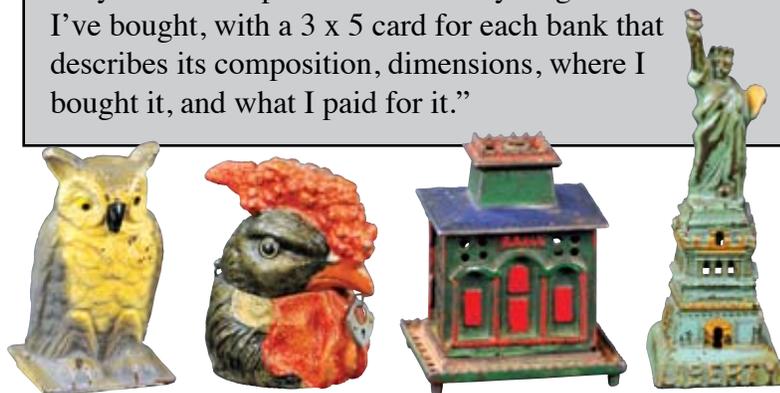
"I also had been looking for a Bear Standing on a Log bank for a long time without any luck. I used to go to Florida on vacation and would work the flea markets. While I was there, I found the bank I had been wanting in a group shop, for \$40. I was thrilled!"

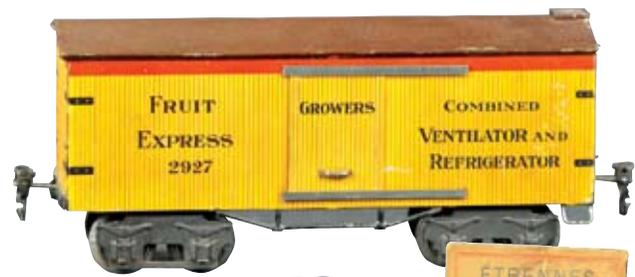
Other things I've collected: Native American artifacts, including beadwork and moccasins

What collectors should know: It has been a very well-maintained, well-documented collection. "Over the years I've kept a record of every single bank I've bought, with a 3 x 5 card for each bank that describes its composition, dimensions, where I bought it, and what I paid for it."



Doug holding his first bank purchased in 1977

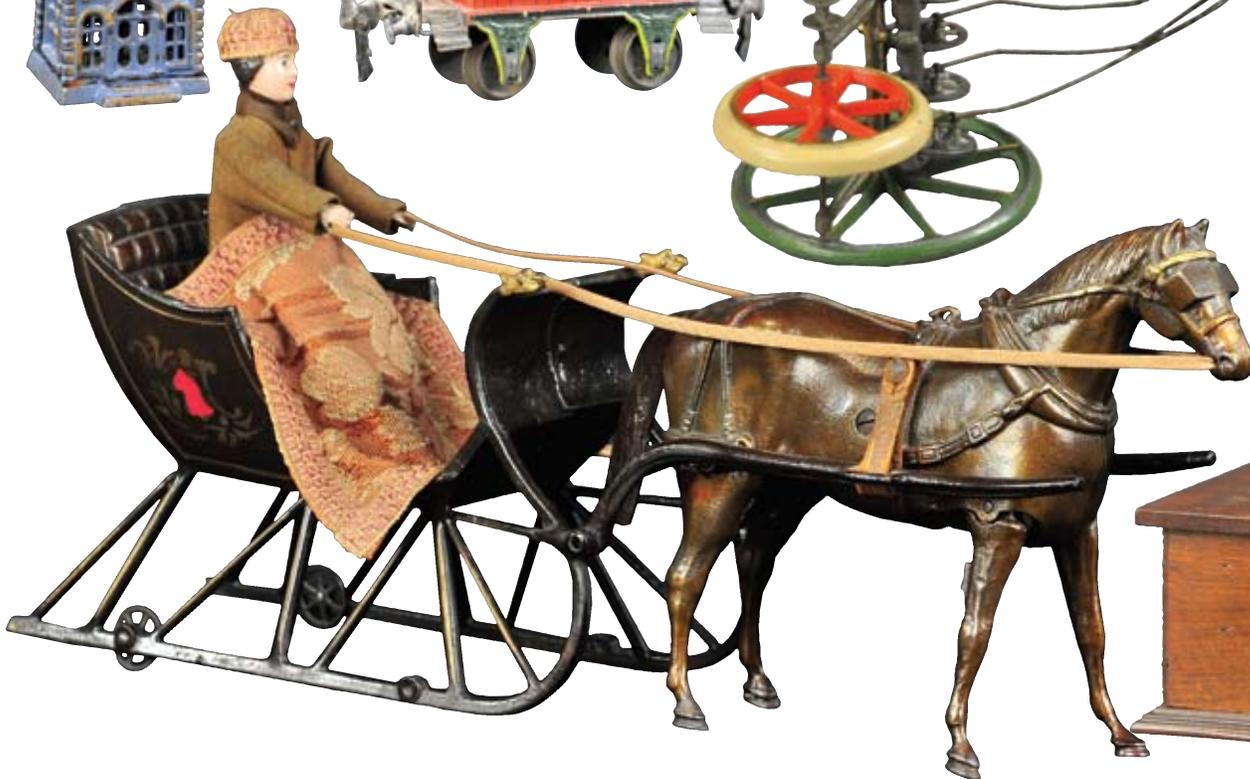




“Douglas Jackman approached bank collecting differently. He wasn’t in the toy-show world. He would set up or shop at the premier Americana and antique shows, especially around New England. If he wanted a particular bank and it eluded him, he never gave up. He kept looking till eventually he found it,” Jeanne said.

The third major collection in Bertoia’s September 22nd spotlight belongs to Benjamin Michel. His specialty is Marklin trains and European train stations. A retired trial attorney, Michel is of French heritage and has made numerous trips to France to purchase fine French paintings, antique toy soldiers and other antiques.

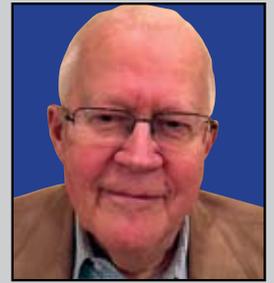
Some 30 or 40 years ago, he discovered Marklin trains and found that he could be very successful buying from “the source.” It was particularly helpful that he had friends in the antique trade who were more than willing to locate the Marklins he desired.





COLLECTOR PROFILE:

Benjamin Michel
 Home: Basking Ridge, New Jersey
 Profession: Retired trial attorney
 Specialty: Marklin trains



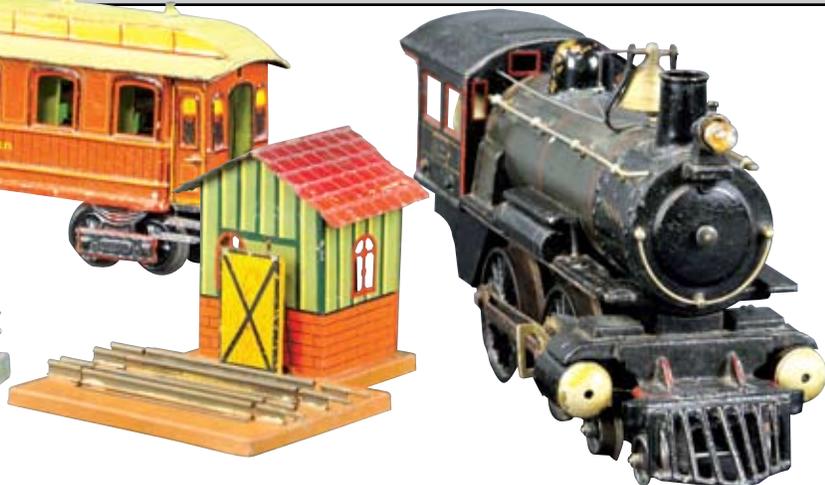
Collection's contents: Hundreds of Marklin trains and many train stations, including German, French and English productions. "I like the stations, each is a little work of art."

How the collection began: "I would visit France 2 or 3 times a year to look for French toy soldiers, which I was collecting. After discovering Marklin trains, some 30 or 40 years ago, my friends in Paris started hunting for them on my behalf at antique shows and flea markets. I was also fortunate to be able to buy Marklin trains many years ago here in the United States from toy train dealers who focused only on American brands. They didn't want the European trains, but if they came across any, they would bring them to local Lionel shows in hopes of selling them to raise money for what they did want to buy."

Why the love of French antiques?: "My family is French originally, and I can trace my ancestors who settled in America to the days of Daniel Boone, when he led settlers across the Cumberland Gap from Virginia to Kentucky."

Other things I've collected: French and Confederate weapons, French military paintings

What bidders should know: "The collection is being sold in its entirety. I've held nothing back. There's no point in doing that, because at an auction preview, those who know a person's collection will recognize if anything is missing that should have been included."





The Benjamin Michel collection is home to many Marklin rarities. Cars include 1 gauge examples of both the famous cream and blue/grey Budweiser beer car and Schlitz beer car with the whimsical Schlitz globe logo. Both cars have excellent detailing and doors that open. Each is estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000.



Also expected to attract strong competition is a Marklin 1 gauge passenger set with early hand-painted clockwork 0-4-0 American outline locomotive and three cars made exclusively for the US market in the Limited Vestibule Express road name. The cars include a seven-window buffet car, a four-window coach, and a baggage car. Estimate \$8,000-\$10,000. Other 1 gauge cars include a passenger car with Pennsylvania Railroad markings, \$4,000-\$6,000; and a scarce Royal Blue Limited passenger car, \$6,000-\$8,000.



Trains of such an illustrious pedigree deserve to be received at a train station befitting royalty, and that job is easily fulfilled by Marklin's 1 gauge Grand Central Station, with opening doors, hand-painted brickwork and roof, and interior tables and chairs. Its pre-sale estimate is \$20,000-\$30,000.





“Many collectors’ wishes will be granted at our September 22nd Signature Sale,” said Jeanne Bertoia. “The Bertoia family looks forward to greeting our guests personally and making sure their time spent at our gallery is enjoyable and memorable.”

Bertoia Auctions’ gallery is located at 2141 DeMarco Dr., Vineland, NJ 08360. All forms of bidding will be available, including absentee, phone or live via the Internet through LiveAuctioneers.com. To contact Bertoia Auctions about any item in the sale, to order a printed catalog, or to reserve a phone line for bidding, call 856-692-1881 or email toys@bertoiiauctions.com. Additional information, including start time and preview hours, may be found online at www.bertoiiauctions.com.



Frank Mohr sharing his collection with the ATCA

