

November 11-12 th 2017

Bertoia Signature Sale

Certain to be THE event of the year

Bertoia Auctions' Nov. 11-12 Signature Sale tipped to be one of the company's best ever, with world-class collections represented in virtually all toy categories

Bonus Sunday session features additional selection of fine holiday antiques and trains





VINELAND, N.J. – The toy-collecting hobby has always been a lively two-way street with sellers on one side and buyers on the other. It's at its strongest and most energetic when the truly great collections appear at auction, as will be the case on November 11-12 when Bertoia's presents its Saturday Fall Signature Sale, with a bonus Sunday session of holiday antiques and trains.

"Everyone who has come in to preview has commented that this is going to be one of the best sales we've ever had, and I would definitely agree," said Bertoia Auctions' owner, Jeanne Bertoia. "The quality is very high across the board, with consignments from prestigious collections in every category."

Jeanne cited several blue-chip sources, including the pressed steel and pedal car collection of the late Eugene DeGraw, fantastic mechanical banks from Texas collector/Mechanical Bank Collectors of America (MBCA) member Steve Said,



and a long-held collection of beautiful Martin clockwork toys from a past Antique Toy Collectors of America (ATCA) member who tracked down elusive examples over several decades. Also in store, there are wonderful trains from Jerry Greene and other veteran collectors; and an exceptional Christmas grouping from the same estate collection that was introduced in Bertoia's March Signature Sale.

There is so much superior-quality material in the Christmas collection that Bertoia's decided to select 100 of the top pieces for inclusion in the Saturday Signature Sale and to add a bonus Sunday session to accommodate the rest.

"The owner was a long-time member of the Golden Glow of Christmas Past and had a connoisseur's eye for quality," Jeanne said. "Probably half of the items are so outstanding that any Christmas collector, no matter how long they've been in the hobby, would want to acquire them."





In the Saturday session there are 10 Santas that measure 24 inches in height or taller.

"If even one Santa of that type appears in an auction, that's impressive, but ten is unheard of," Jeanne said. Also featured are balsnickles, large Father Christmas figures, a sizable Krampus, chalk Santas, and Heubach figures of children on skis, holding snowballs, etc.

The cast-iron section includes both automotive and horse-drawn toys. Among the Hubley highlights are a Royal Circus Giraffe wagon, a hill-climber motorcycle, and a sky blue Say It With Flowers motorcycle delivery van. Early Kenton autos will be ready to take a spin, as well. A small offering of 1880s bell and pull toys includes a boxed, near-mint J. & E. Stevens "Landing of Columbus" bell toy plus several examples by Ives.





Collectors will revel in the opportunity to bid on nearly 100 pristine mechanical banks from the collection of Steve Said. "MBCA members visited Steve's collection during a past convention, so his banks are well known to them," noted Bertoia's auctioneer Michael Bertoia. The lineup contains a fresh-to-market Lion Hunter, a top-condition Punch & Judy, an Afghanistan bank in supreme condition, and a stellar Boy Scout Camp. A handful of rare and desirable tin banks includes a Mickey Mouse vending bank and a boxed Magie.

A category for which Bertoia's is renowned is figural cast-iron doorstops. An influential collector and authority on the subject, Jeanne Bertoia is credited with having cultivated the auction marketplace for doorstops. She personally curates each and every doorstop offered in her company's sales. The November 11 session includes one of her favorite forms: a handsome Bradley & Hubbard Heron. Other top picks are a Bradley & Hubbard Brown Owl in superb condition, a flat, double-sided Spencer Pelican with original white, yellow and green paint; and a pristine Dutch Girl with Flowers. "There are many extremely beautiful florals, birds and other animal varieties, including squirrel designs that I've never seen before," Jeanne said.



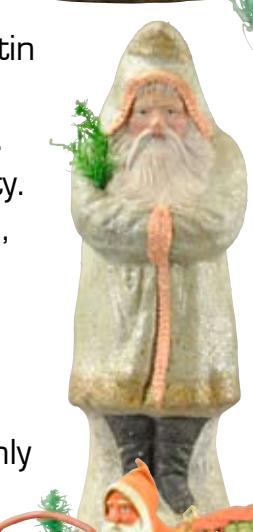




Bertoia's railway station will be brimming with high-quality European and American trains, both standard gauge and 2-inch types. There will be affinity groupings of Marklin, Voltamp and Lionel trains, with the latter exhibiting consistent C9 condition or better throughout. An anticipated scene-stealer, a circa-1910 deluxe version of Marklin's English Churchbury Station in 100% original condition came to Bertoia's from the original owner's family in India. It could command a winning bid of \$20,000 or more.

Once again, a grand fleet of antique boats – around 40 in all – will set sail at Bertoia's Signature Sale. Both American and German boats are represented, including coveted Marklin battleships, ocean liners and a paddlewheeler.

The European section continues with a sensational array of 30+ French-made Martin wind-ups that was amassed by a New York collector, ATCA member and world traveler. "His focus was always on condition and rarity. These Martin clockwork toys are untouched, perfect, pristine examples, and there are several that we've never even seen before except in books," Jeanne said. They include a boxed Khaki Guard, a Cakewalk, and an Acrobatic Gymnast that would be familiar only to those who have visited a Paris museum where a similar example is on display.





Complementing the Martins are several wonderful Lehmann toys manufactured in Germany during the same general timeframe. Among them are a boxed Halloh motorcycle with provenance from the Donald Kaufman Collection, and an ever-popular Baker and Chimney Sweep.

More than 70 lithographed-tin and celluloid comic character toys, both American and Japanese, will follow. There are many boxed examples, including a Linemar Superman Tank with original box.

Early Steiff productions are highlighted by two lots in particular, both made of velvet. One is a set of three velvet bunnies; the other is a full set of Steiff skittles, each in the form of a different animal.



While the top-tier Christmas antiques and trains will be presented during the Saturday Signature Sale, there will be much more to bid on at the bonus Sunday session – specifically 300 holiday lots and 150 train lots. “Everything reserved for Sunday has great eye appeal at a lower price point. In the Christmas and holiday category, there will be numerous die-cuts and flat paper items, Santas, candy containers, ornaments, etc. It’s a wonderful buying opportunity for those who can’t attend the auction in person,” Jeanne said.

In addition to Christmas paper lots (which include sought-after Rafael Tuck productions), the holiday selection will encompass many other seasonal favorites, such as Santas in sleighs – some pulled by reindeer – glass and other tree ornaments, candy containers, later Santas, and many small buildings.



Alongside the fabulous Christmas offerings there will be group lots of Halloween items and patriotic material, such as old flags, batting and other vintage decorations. "We expect a lot of interest in these two categories, since there's such a large collector base for each," Jeanne said.

The Nov. 11-12, 2017 auction will begin at 10 a.m. Eastern Time on both days. The gallery preview will take place during regular business hours in the week preceding the auction, or any other time by appointment. Bertoia Auctions 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@bertoiaauctions.com. Additional information is available online at www.bertoiaauctions.com.

