

Memorial Day fun will get an early start at Bertoia's May 23-24 Annual Spring Toy Sale



Featured: More than 1,000 high-quality toys, banks and trains from many fine collections

VINELAND, N.J. — Winter has finally moved on, and it's once again time for collectors to gather, socialize and compete for great toys of all types at Bertoia's Annual Spring Toy Sale. The company's renowned Signature Sales focus on a select few collections with prestigious name value, and its Basics series presents excellent toys at affordable price points, but Bertoia's diverse Spring Sale is an open door to fine pieces from literally dozens of collections. This year's edition, slated for Thursday and Friday, May 23 and 24, boasts more



than 1,000 toys, banks and trains, and has been timed so it doesn't interfere with the cookouts or other family events traditionally held over Memorial Day weekend.

The opening session will feature more than 300 still banks from the estate collection of Ohioan Ned Bauer, a past host of the Still Bank Collectors Club convention. The lineup includes both figural architectural and "safe" banks boasting plenty of eye-filling color and paint. Among the highlights are two different sizes of Bay Window banks, an extremely rare Chancellor bank, and a large Statue of Liberty bank whose original paint is so exceptional, it was described by Bertioia Auctions President Michael Bertioia as "dripping wet" – collector jargon for paint so complete, it looks like it was just painted.





Also entered in the Thursday session are approximately 80 cast-iron mechanical banks. Just a few of the standouts include a pristine Boy Scout Camp, a near-mint Multiplying bank, and an ultra-rare Bowling Alley bank.

Collectors of pressed steel will find a selection awaiting them that is as comprehensive as they've ever seen in a single auction. There are both large and small vehicles in the mix, as well as a dozen pedal cars. Highlights include beautiful American National Giant Series trucks, an American National pedal car, Buddy 'L's, Keystone and Steelcraft pieces, and a broad assortment of Structo toys from the late Tiny Moyer's collection.





Nautical toys are led by a large Bing torpedo boat in superb condition, accompanied by its original box. Also part of the proud flotilla is a large grouping of working craft speedboats, battleships and other vessels from the Moyer collection.



Cast-iron automotive toys are well represented by a large Vindex steam shovel, several cast-iron fire trucks and Hubley racecars. Additionally, there are cast-iron horse-drawn toys, speedboats, and several airplanes, including a desirable Friendship seaplane.





An auction entry that conjures déjà-vu at Bertoia's is a cast-iron tricycle with painted wooden wheels and a metal seat whose cut-out design creates the words "Tom Thumb." The late-19th-century production was purchased 30 years ago by Bertoia Auctions co-founder and antique toy dealer the late Bill Bertoia. However, before Bill resold the antique trike, it was kept at the family home, where Bill and Jeanne's children, Michael and Lauren, happily posed with it for Christmas and Easter photos. One of those photos was actually featured in a cover story about Michael's penny toys (Antique Toy World, March 2019 issue). Now the tricycle has come full circle to Bertoia's, consigned by the person who bought the toy from Bill three decades ago.





Timeless European wind-up toys – especially Lehmanns and Martins – seem to gain new fans with each successive Bertoia sale. The May 23-24 event includes such prized examples as a boxed Lehmann Zig-Zag, a Martin Carpenter, a near-mint Distler “Man Changing Faces,” several hand-painted Gunthermann plink-plink musical toys, and a French “exploding” crash car, likely made by Pinard.



Super-clean and ready to display with pride, the comic character toys in the sale are dominated by boxed favorites, such as the perennially popular Superman Tank and several Popeye toys. A wide range of Mickey Mouse and other Disney toys completes the amusing array.

Both American and European trains will be pulling into the gallery to see where their next destinations might be. Leading the way will be a Marklin 1 gauge blue locomotive pulling three refrigerator cars, fresh from





a Wisconsin estate and graded a solid 10 out of 10. "It's unusual to see a refrigerator car set like this one. We think it could make \$20,000 to \$25,000 at auction, maybe more," Michael said.

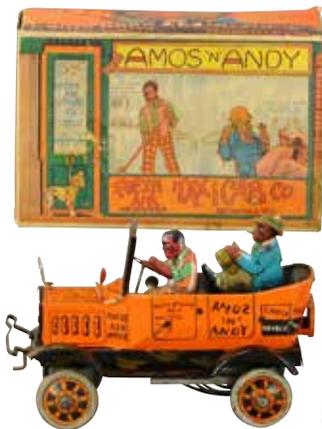
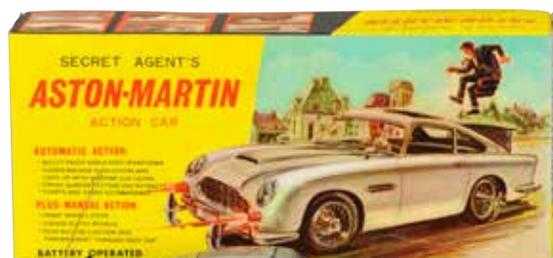


The large number of Halloween pieces to be offered is actually Part II of the same Pennsylvania private collection Bertoia's debuted last November amid great excitement. Collectors who were overjoyed with the rarities offered in Part I can expect to see yet another sensational selection of die-cuts, lanterns, veggie people, noisemakers, witches and cats.



Figural cast-iron doorstops will be ready to impress, with some of the coveted forms including a full-figure standing Frog, a rare Hubley Bugle Boy, a Witch on Broomstick, and a few Bradley & Hubbard designs. Sharing the spotlight with the doorstops is a truly exceptional single-owner collection of figural string holders. They include an Ice Skater, Fairy Godmother, Dandy, and full-figure Black Cat Head. "Cast-iron collectors have a great appreciation for string holders because, in a very clever way, they incorporate beautiful design with a functional purpose," said Jeanne Bertoia, owner of Bertoia Auctions and an expert on figural doorstops and other cast-iron novelties.



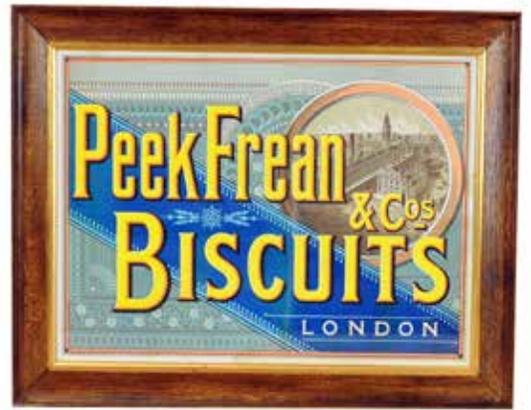


A small grouping of dolls, including a milliner's doll and an Izannah Walker painted oilcloth doll will be in friendly company alongside a grouping of antique and vintage teddy bears of assorted size. Many were created by the premier German soft toy manufacturer Steiff.





Quite often, toy collectors also acquire antique advertising and country store memorabilia, which will be in abundant supply in the May auction. There are cathedral candy jars, wooden boxes for Sweet Lotus and other tobacco companies, approximately a dozen music boxes, and slot and arcade machines. A wonderful display case etched on its glass portion with the name "Sauer's Flavoring Extracts" is filled with a variety of Sauer's products acquired over time. Likewise, another prized display case advertised "Balsam Myrrh" and houses antiseptic dressings, liniments and other medical supplies.



Stand-up figural advertising pieces include an outstanding example in the shape of a baker from the British company Macfarlane Lang. Antique biscuit tins, including automotive forms, come with provenance from renowned collector Byron Fink of Philadelphia. One of the finest pieces in the collection is a 4-by-5ft, five-tiered tabletop advertising display for Huntley & Palmers Biscuits. Its lithography depicts the famed British company's impressive range of biscuits (cookies) and crackers. "The display is hinged and foldable, and is double-sided. It was most likely intended to be used by sales personnel at trade shows," Michael said. "This was one of the premier pieces in Byron Fink's collection, and it's very rare. We don't know of another one."



The Bertioia family encourages collectors to attend the live auction on May 23-24, but for those who cannot, bidding will also be available by phone, absentee or live online through LiveAuctioneers. To contact Bertioia 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@bertioiauctions.com. Additional information online: www.bertioiauctions.com.

