



Bertoia's to auction Part II of Paul Cole's 50-year collection of fine American and European trains, early tin, cast-iron and penny toys, Oct. 15-16

Featured: Marklin rarities including circa-1904 O-gauge Electric Tramway trolley, circa-1902 gauge-1 Gare-Centrale station, circa-1906 armored train car and many more



VINELAND, N.J. – Last May, Bertoia’s was honored to auction Part I of the late Paul Cole’s magnificent 50-year antique toy and train collection. The highly anticipated spring event, which drew competitive bidding from throughout the United States, Europe and other parts of the world, realized more than \$2.5 million, exceeding pre-sale expectations by hundreds of thousands of dollars. On October 15-16, collectors will have another chance to acquire blue-chip pieces from the famous trove of American and European toys and trains at Bertoia’s Fall Signature Auction. Nearly 850 lots will be offered, with day one devoted solely to Paul’s toys and day two reserved exclusively for his trains.





Classic American cast-iron horse-drawn toys will step into the spotlight during Friday's session, with star lots to include a rare Kenton Happy Hooligan and Foxy Grandpa Nodders Wagon, a Pratt & Letchworth Barouche, and a Hubley Royal Circus Giraffe Wagon with provenance from the L.C. Hegarty collection. Each is estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000. The Hubley horse-drawn offerings continue with a green Three-Seat Brake, \$2,000-\$4,000; and a blue Brownies Sleigh, \$2,000-\$3,000. A Kyser & Rex Santa Sleigh in beautiful condition is a crossover favorite with Christmas collectors as well, and is likely to settle in the \$5,000-\$7,500 range.



There's never a shortage of interest in American bell toys, like the Gong Bell Drummer Boy – one of few known examples – which will cross the auction block with a \$6,000-\$9,000 estimate. An N.N. Hill Buster Brown and Tige bell toy in pristine to near-mint condition is estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000, as is a Merriam horse-drawn Bell Ringer composed of both cast iron and tin. It would be difficult to find another large-scale Gong Bell Clown and Poodle bell toy as well preserved as the one Paul owned. It boasts the level of strong, original condition that warrants a \$2,000-\$4,000 estimate. Likewise, a J&E Stevens Monkey on Tricycle bell toy in excellent, all-original condition could command a \$2,000-\$4,000 price on auction day.



Several Ives toys are poised to catch the eye of early American toy enthusiasts. They include a Rocking Elephant with Rider, \$3,000-\$5,000; and a scarce clockwork 'hook behind' cart, \$5,000-\$7,500. An Ives Monkey Wood-Chopper estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000 is especially rare. "When Paul bought this piece, it was believed to be one of fewer than a handful known," said Michael Bertoia, president of Bertoia Auctions.

An Automatic Toy Works tin Scissors Sharpener toy patented in 1874 was once part of the distinguished Frank Mohr collection, which was auctioned by Bertoia's in 2011. In pristine to near-mint condition, it will be offered with a \$2,500-\$4,500 estimate.





Cast iron fans can expect to see an exciting variety of options in Paul's collection. Among the highlights are a large Dent Battleship New York finished in a terrific color combination, \$2,000-\$3,000; an Arcade Lammerts "White" Moving Van, \$2,000-\$3,000; and an early pristine to near-mint Kenton City Bus, \$1,200-\$1,800. A U.S. Hardware 8-Man Racing Scull is ready to flex its auction muscles and earn its \$1,000-\$1,500 estimate.



The collection's European toys reflect their late owner's penchant for rare, early pieces emulating everyday life as it was more than a century ago. Two large Gunthermann productions lead the selection: an impressive High Wheel with Running Dog, \$2,000-\$3,000; and a handsome Vis-à-Vis, \$2,500-\$4,500. The list continues with a Hans Eberl Bicyclist Tipping Hat, \$1,000-\$1,500; a delicately lithographed Richter (attrib.) bisque boy driving an early tin roadster with working bellows, \$1,200-\$1,800; and an Issmayer Santa chiming-bell toy, \$1,500-\$2,500. Additionally, there are several airplanes, including pusher and early bi-wing wind-up types; and a French Le Train Renard set, which is likely to tempt collectors of both train and automotive toys. It has a \$2,500-\$4,500 estimate. A Bing Woodpecker mechanical bank, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500, adds vibrant charm to an already colorful category.

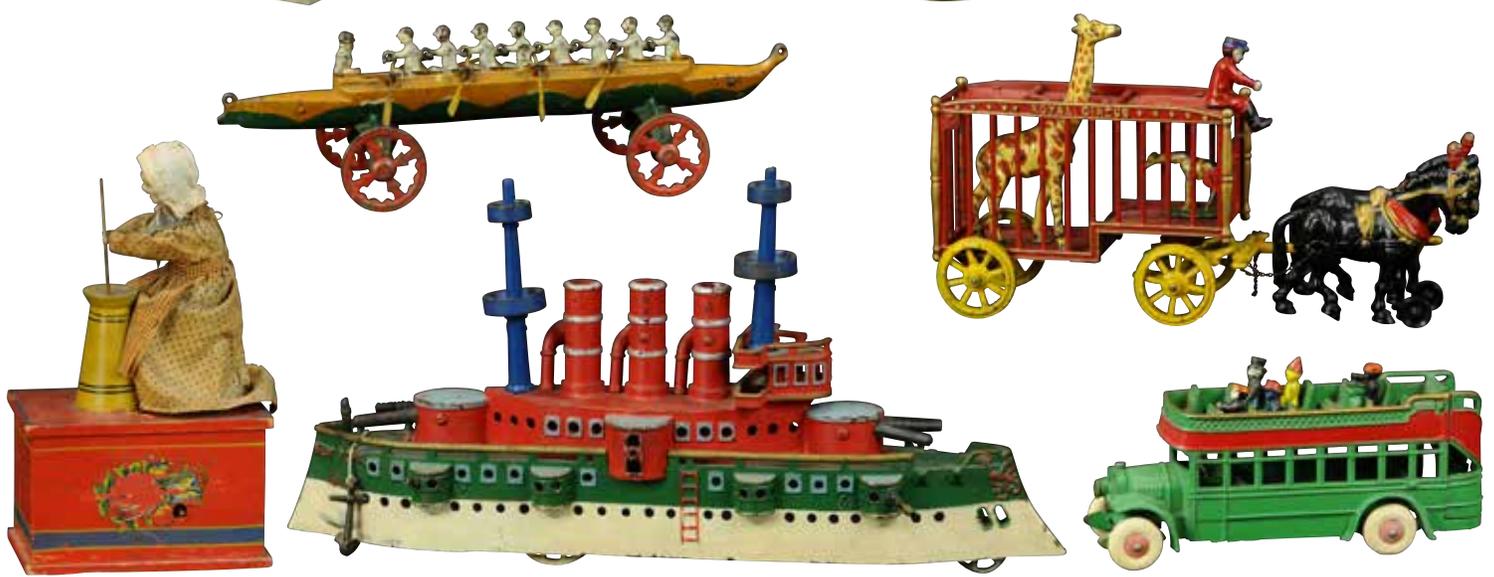




Timeless in their appeal, whimsical penny toys will cross the auction block as part of the European section, with tiny treasures by Meier at the forefront. Among them are a Gnome on Egg, \$800-\$1,200; an articulated Rowboat, \$500-\$750; a Monkey Soldier on Dog, \$500-\$750; and Horses and Riders, \$500-\$750. Of unknown manufacture, a delightful Gnomes on Windmill penny toy is likely to sell in the \$600-\$900 range.



Paul Cole started collecting Lionel trains in the early 1970s. Later, as he became more immersed in the hobby, he discovered the magical designs of Germany's premier toy train brand, Marklin. His exquisite collection grew to include many Marklin rarities in several gauges, along with coveted additions from other time-honored European manufacturers such as Carette, Issmayer, FV France and more. Many of the finest examples from Paul's collection will be offered on October 16, as well as early trolleys and a sizable array of sought-after train accessories.





Leading the regal railway lineup is a circa-1904 Marklin O-gauge Electric Tramway clockwork trolley. Hand-painted to perfection, it carries a \$20,000-\$30,000 estimate. Also estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000, a large, hand-painted gauge-1 Marklin Gare-Centrale 2661 station was made for the French market circa 1902 and can be identified as #2661 in Marklin's catalog. A circa-1915 No. 2847 Country Station, gauge O or 1, is a hand-painted interpretation of a rural British station of the early 20th century. Its estimate is \$8,000-\$10,000.





The Marklin parade continues with a hand-painted gauge-1 clockwork Congressional Limited passenger set comprised of a D1021 locomotive and 1881, 1882 and 1883 cars. Made around 1906 for the American market, it is estimated at \$8,000-\$12,000. Both an FE1021 gauge-1 double-motor locomotive – regarded as the most sumptuous clockwork loco Marklin ever made – and a circa-1904 gauge-2 curved-door CLR (Central London Railway) locomotive are expected to arrive within an estimate range of \$8,000-\$12,000. Within the top tier of individual Marklin train cars, collectors will find a rare and desirable circa-1906 hand-painted O-gauge armored car, \$15,000-\$20,000; and a very rare circa 1908 hand-painted gauge-1 hand-crank crane car, \$8,000-\$12,000. Many Marklin enthusiasts search high and low for the manufacturer’s train cars bearing brewery advertising, such as the ones in the Cole collection. The choice selection includes logo’d cars touting Pabst, Schlitz, Budweiser and other brands, with a top prize being Paul’s extremely rare “Nutrine” car.



Bertoia's Friday/Saturday, Oct. 15-16, 2021 auction featuring the Paul Cole antique toy and train collection will take place at the company's gallery in Vineland, New Jersey. Live attendance is limited and by reservation only, with masks and social distancing mandatory. In-gallery previews are by appointment only. Bid absentee, by phone, or live online through Bertoia Live or LiveAuctioneers. For additional information, call 856-692-1881, email toys@bertoiiauctions.com or visit Bertoia's online: [www.bertoiaauctions.com](http://www.bertoiaauctions.com).

