



Kyser & Rex 'Mikado' mechanical bank sells for unheard-of \$288K, with Man Kicking Watermelon, Roller Skating and Picture Gallery banks also landing in the Top Ten

VINELAND, N.J. – Anyone who thinks you can have too much of a good thing obviously wasn't watching as Part II of the legendary Aaron and Abby Schroeder collection crossed the auction block at Bertoia's, September 10-11, 2021. The second helping of the Schroeders' superlative lifetime assemblage of antique toys and banks was offered with no reserve and took in \$2.6 million, which, when added to the proceeds of Part I from last March, puts the series total so far at \$5.7 million. It also places the Schroeder collection in the same prestigious league as the Donald Kaufman and Max Berry collections, both also sold by Bertoia's.



Realized \$25,200



Realized \$45,600



NEW RECORD HIGH - Realized \$288,000



Realized \$31,200



Realized \$96,000



Realized \$5,700



Realized \$5,100



Realized \$4,200



Realized \$9,600

As Bertoia Auctions' president, Michael Bertoia, noted: "Collectors will be pleased to know that there's still more to come. Next year we will hold at least one additional sale featuring the Schroeder toys, maybe more."

The September sessions featured an envy-stirring lineup of cast-iron banks that included more than 100 "stills" and nearly 200 mechanicals. As predicted, the top lot of the sale was a pristine magician-themed Kyser & Rex Mikado mechanical bank. It had been estimated at \$80,000-\$120,000 but sold to an American bidder on the phone for a remarkable \$288,000.



Realized \$72,000



Realized \$9,000



Realized \$9,600



Realized \$9,600



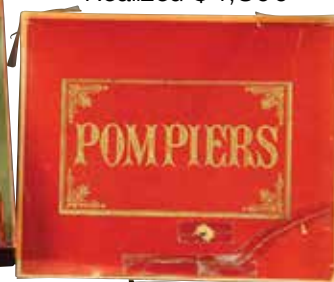
Realized \$60,000



Realized \$3,300



Realized \$4,800



Realized \$31,200



Realized \$4,500



Realized \$34,800

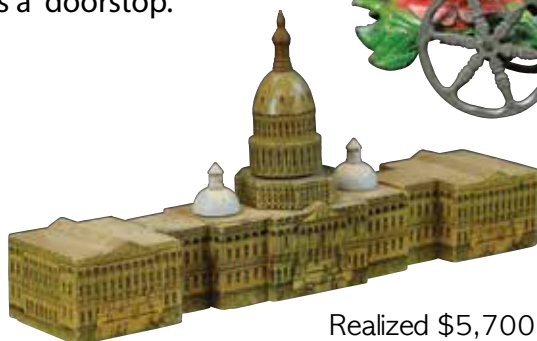
"We knew it would go much higher than the estimate because of all the pre-sale interest." "It was unquestionably one of the finest of all known examples. Even the magician's face was perfect, and that's usually the first place where you'll see signs of wear in any bank that depicts a human figure. Bank buyers are watchful of such things. It's no different than in the rare coin world, where even a tiny chip can make a big difference to the price of a coin." And speaking of price, there can be little doubt that the Mikado bank was an excellent investment for the Schroeders. They had originally purchased it in the 1970s or '80s after spotting it in an estate auction ad that incorrectly identified it as a "doorstop."



Realized \$33,600



Realized \$4,200



Realized \$5,700



Realized \$3,900



Realized \$4,200



\$5,400



Realized \$5,100



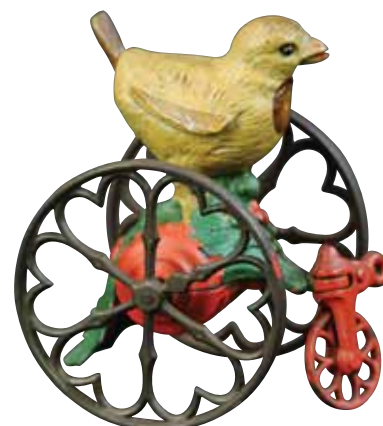
Realized \$5,400



Realized \$5,100



Realized \$48,000



\$15,600

Made by J & E Stevens circa 1888, one of few existing Man Kicking Watermelon banks was entered with a \$40,000-\$70,000 estimate and rose to \$96,000; while one of the best of all known examples of a Shepard Hardware Picture Gallery bank secured \$72,000 against a \$30,000-\$50,000 estimate. A Kyser & Rex Roller Skating Bank, whose many visual actions make it a perennial collector favorite, sold above estimate for \$60,000; as did a Chimpanzee bank, which was bid to \$48,000. One of very few known Trick Donkey banks kicked its \$7,000-\$10,000 estimate aside, garnering a winning bid of \$19,200.



Realized \$32,400



Realized \$5,400



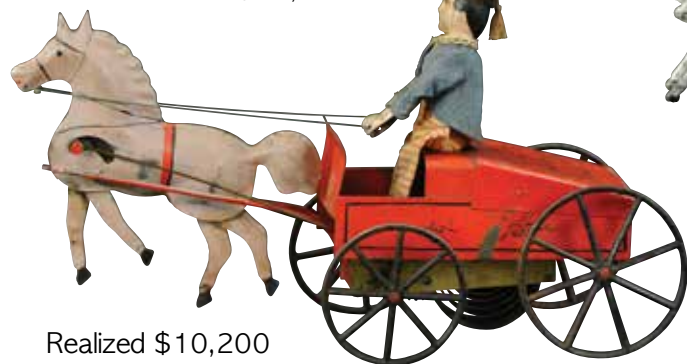
Realized \$30,000



Realized \$3,900



Realized \$9,600



Realized \$10,200



Realized \$5,100



Realized \$3,900



Realized \$3,600



Realized \$30,000



Realized \$4,500

A stunning example of the extremely rare cast-iron educational toy known as “Alphabet Man” or “Yan-kee Schoolmaster” stepped to the head of the class, reaching the midpoint of its estimate at \$25,300. Other American cast-iron toy highlights included a beautiful 21-inch Hubley Royal Circus Bandwagon that sold for \$31,200 against its \$4,000-\$7,000 estimate. “That price was a big surprise, but it shows the value collectors place on condition,” Michael Bertoia observed. “We had never seen another one like it that could be described as absolutely mint, but this one definitely was.”

Another prized Hubley toy replicated an ornately decorated clockwork amusement ride and was detailed with pierced cast-iron wheels and six swaying gondolas with passengers. One of only three such toys known to exist, it had previously been part of the Max Berry collection. It landed within estimate for \$15,600.



Realized \$30,000



Realized \$4,800



Realized \$28,800



Realized \$4,800



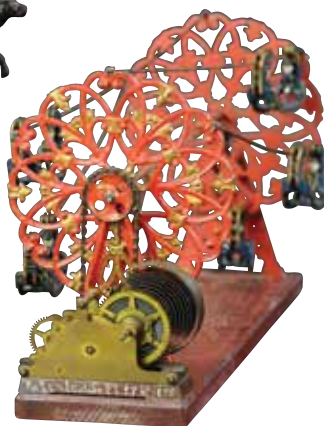
\$3,600



Realized \$26,400



Realized \$15,600



Realized \$15,600



Realized \$19,200



Realized \$14,400



\$24,000

A near-mint Ives cast-iron sledge pulled by two well-formed reindeer displayed gorgeous paint and exemplary detailing. The only known toy of its type, according to Bertoia's experts who cataloged the collection, it sold well above estimate for \$19,200. Also by Ives, a Hippodrome Chariot raced to the top of its estimate range at \$24,000; while a boxed Ives Jubilee Trotting Course more than tripled its high estimate with a winning bid of \$15,600. An unusual J. & E. Stevens cast-iron penny candy scale, nicely japanned and with near-flawless painted figures of a boy and girl, more than tripled its high estimate to finish at \$16,800.



Realized \$10,200



Realized \$10,800



Realized \$3,600



Realized \$3,600



Realized \$3,300



Realized \$19,200



\$4,500

Realized \$5,700



\$14,400



Realized \$4,800



\$3,600



Realized \$13,200



Realized \$16,800



Realized \$13,200

The great American toy brand Althof Bergmann enticed both toy and train aficionados to jump in and bid. Michael Bertoia, who also presided as the sale's auctioneer, was both amazed and delighted when an Althof Bergmann clockwork floor train sold through his company's online bidding platform, Bertoia Live, for \$34,800 – nearly four times the high estimate. "Gallery bidding was by reservation only, so many of our regular customers took advantage of the online option," he said. "They were very comfortable using that method because they know how careful we are to make sure all bids are in before the hammer comes down."

Another Althof Bergmann treasure, the only known complete example of a hand-painted tin Fire Patrol wagon with five original fireman figures, trotted off to a new owner for \$31,200. It had been estimated at \$4,000-\$7,000.



Realized \$7,800



Realized \$6,600



Realized \$4,800



Realized \$16,800



Realized \$25,200



Realized \$4,800



\$13,200



Realized \$4,500



Realized \$7,200



Realized \$12,000



\$10,200

European tin toys followed a timeline from early hand-painted toys and diminutive penny toys to automotive, aeronautical and other wind-up toys. One particular toy that grabbed attention on both sides of the Atlantic was an antique magic lantern in the form of a Chinese man or "Buddha." Made circa 1870 in France and standing 16½ inches high, it had survived the last 150 years in phenomenal condition, with a predominantly green with black and gold palette that was virtually undiminished. The rare optical toy had been conservatively estimated at \$7,000-\$10,000, but there were expectations that it might catch the right eyes and go much higher. It ended up selling for \$45,600 to an American buyer in the room.

Lot after lot, Continental toys defied their high estimates. A 22-inch-long French hand-painted tin boat with rowers in matching striped tops sold to an American phone bidder for \$25,200 (estimate \$3,000-\$5,000), while a 24-inch-long hand-painted horse-drawn omnibus – tin with cast-iron wheels and also of French manufacture – achieved \$15,600 (estimate \$6,000-\$9,000).



Realized \$15,600



Realized \$12,000



Realized \$6,000



\$3,600



Realized \$11,400



Realized \$7,200



Realized \$3,600



Realized \$9,600



Realized \$3,000

After the auction, Michael Bertoia commented that the high rate of participation and 99% sell-through rate could be attributed directly to the Schroeders themselves, who recognized great quality and always acquired the very best examples available to them. "They did all of the hard work that went into building a collection like theirs, investing time and money for more than half a century. People want the type of provenance that the Schroeder collection represents and will pay for it."

To discuss a future consignment to Bertoia Auctions, call 856-692-1881 or email toys@bertoiiauctions.com. Visit the company online for updates on future sales at www.bertoiaauctions.com.



Realized \$8,400



Realized \$7,800



Realized \$3,300



Realized \$9,000



\$9,000



\$2,400



Realized \$2,700



\$2,700



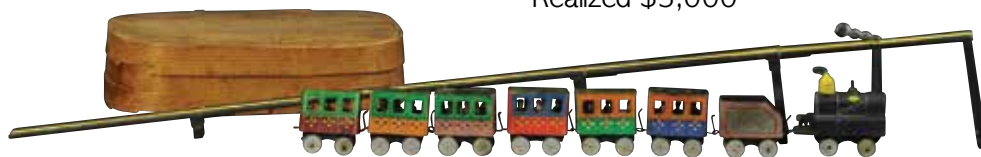
Realized \$3,000



Realized \$3,000



Realized \$3,000



Realized \$3,000