

# ANTIQUE TOY WORLD



The Annual Fall Auction  
November 17-18, 2022

*Featuring quality iron toys, colorful mechanical banks, and more!*

*With Cast Iron highlights from the  
Bob Brady Toy Collection*





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VINELAND, N.J. – Do you yearn for the days when collecting toys was a nonstop adventure of traveling to shows and auctions, scouring flea markets and antique shops, and building a global circle of friends who acted as a trusted buying, selling and trading community? If you were involved in the hobby as far back as the 1970s, '80s or early '90s – a golden era for toy buying – you probably have fond memories of that time and can recall exactly where and when you acquired certain prized pieces for your collection. And as we all know, it's not just about the toys themselves; it's the friendships and the stories behind them that last forever.

That sentiment certainly applies to the four individuals whose blue-chip collections are featured in Bertoia's November 17-18, 2022 Annual Fall Auction. Their names would be immediately recognizable to most Antique Toy World readers, and their collections are a testament to what can result from decades of networking, sleuthing and buying the finest and rarest examples. Thanks to them, we can all look forward to two days of old-school



discoveries as Bertoia's presents Bob Brady's "private reserve" of antique toys, the entire mechanical bank collection of the late Jack White, and the superlative Christmas collection of Linda Smith and her late husband Curtis Smith.

In addition to being top-quality assemblages, the Brady, White and Smith collections are linked by another common thread. All contain pieces that boast a pedigreed "bloodline," with provenance that includes some of the most famous collections of the 20th century. Let's take a walk through the auction lineup and see what bidders can expect to see in Bertoia's pre-Thanksgiving event.



## THE BOB BRADY COLLECTION: HIS PRIVATE RESERVE

Everyone knows Bob Brady. He's "Mr. Hubley," a nickname he earned for presciently collecting Hubley cast-iron toys – along with other toys – as early as 1975. He could be spotted with a flashlight at 4:30 in the morning at weekend markets like Pennsylvania's Renningers and Shupps Grove, hoping to turn up early-bird delights. And often he did. He also had a knack for tracking down toys he could buy "fresh out of houses." He became known as a gentleman collector who will wait patiently for toys to come his way if he missed out on them the first time around.

Bob recounts the time he had his heart set on buying a very rare black and gold Hubley DAH Harley-Davidson Hillclimber motorcycle at a Baltimore auction but took a step back because his good friend Andy Huffer made it very clear he wanted the bike. "Andy bought the toy, and years later it went to another auction, where it was bought by a furniture builder who used to do custom work for Bill and Stevie Weart. When the furniture builder died, his family consigned it to yet another auction, where I bought it."



Bob, who is a very young 80, says he doesn't plan to stop collecting, but his focus going forward will be on cast-iron banks. He is, in fact, a past president of the Still Banks Collectors Club of America (SBCCA) and Mechanical Bank Collectors of America (MBCA), in addition to being a 40-year member of the Antique Toy Collectors of America (ATCA). The last of his toys – the ones he has kept as his own private reserve – have been consigned to Bertoiá's. The only exceptions are a few "token" pieces that remind him of his friends – a Borden's Milk truck acquired from Jacob Brubaker, the son of the original Hubley designer Jacob Brubaker; a motorcycle from Andy Huffer, an airplane from Larry Seibert, and an Althof Bergmann American tin toy from the Covert and Gertrude Hegarty collection. "I have three empty showcases, now, but the few pieces I've kept, which are not the rarest or most valuable toys, bring back memories of people in the toy trade who were invaluable to me as coaches."



Bob recalled the stories behind a few of his favorite toys in the November auction:

- USCO Arcade White moving van – “I got it at the tail end of when Dale Burchard was liquidating the last of his collection. I would play golf with him anytime I was in Chicago. Like his father, who also collected, he would buy the best of the best – he would even go up against Don Kaufman, so that tells you something. By far, this model is the best moving van toy of them all.”
- Hubley 2-seat and 4-seat brakes – “I had been after Jimmy Maxwell’s 4-seat brake for many, many years, but we couldn’t come to terms on the price. I ended up purchasing it from Bill Bertoia and Alex Acevedo, who had the opportunity to buy a number of things that had been pried out of Jimmy through a third party, Bill Holland. I bought it from Bill Bertoia, sight unseen. I didn’t need to see it. I knew the piece extremely well from having wanted it for so many years.”



- Hubley cast-iron motorcycles – “Some of the Hubley motorcycles are the best of all known examples of their particular type, like the orange Harley-Davidson, the Parcel Post, the US Airmail... My Popeye motorcycle is the result of four or five upgrades. Each time I had a chance to buy one with one or two less chips than the one I currently owned, I would do it.”
- Kyser & Rex cast-iron Bear & Kangaroo Cage bell toy – “I consider it a bell toy because when the bear and kangaroo figures turn 360 degrees in their cage, the bell underneath the toy rings. It’s a very rare toy, and as far as I know, it’s the best of all known examples.”
- Gong Bell bell toys – “Bill Bertoia and I produced three auctions together, including the sale of the Bill Norman collection. Bill collected in a multitude of fields and occasionally would sell a piece in order to buy something else. I bought some of my nicest Gong Bell toys from him.”
- Cast-iron pull toys – “This is a category I really like. The Hubley Dutch Cleanser Girl is one that I’ve had for many, many years. I’ve always liked toys that have an action associated with them, which is why mechanical banks appeal to me. With this particular toy, the girl figure holds a can of Dutch Cleanser in one hand and a stick in the other arm, which is movable. When the toy is pulled, the girl lifts the stick up and down.”



THE JACK WHITE MECHANICAL BANK COLLECTION:

John Forrest White – “Jack” to his many friends in the bank-collecting community – passed away in September 2021 at the age of 83. A native of New Orleans and a graduate of Tulane University, Jack began his career as a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch and EF Hutton. He later owned a radio business and was also active in real estate, buying, selling and managing family properties. An art-lover who spent the last part of his life in Mississippi, Jack served on the boards of the Walter Anderson Museum (Ocean Springs, Miss.) and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art (Laurel, Miss.).

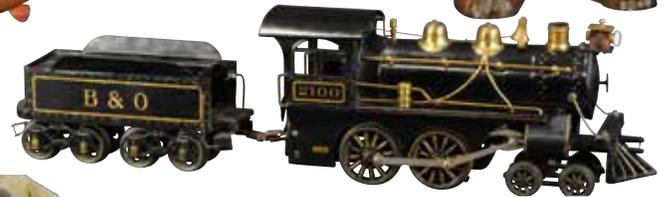
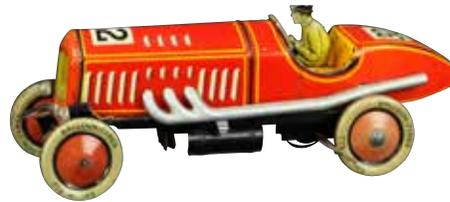
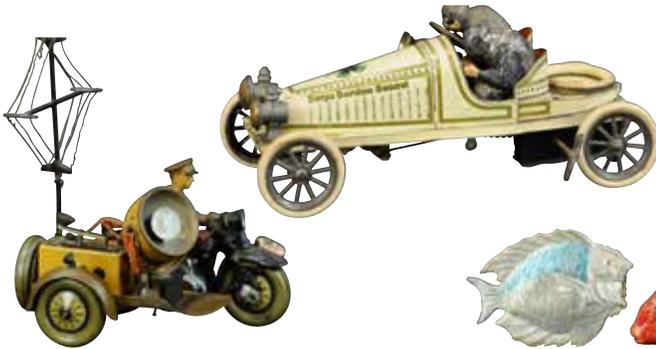
Jack has been described by those who knew him best as a “colorful Southern raconteur” who loved storytelling and jokes. A man of many passions, he enjoyed collecting decoys, carousels, Louisiana art and antiques; and cast-iron mechanical banks.



A member of the Mechanical Bank Collectors of America, Jack once hosted the club's annual convention, in New Orleans. Like his friend Bob Brady, he had the opportunity to buy many mechanical banks that had formerly belonged to legendary collectors from the early days of the hobby.

Jack's beautiful mechanical bank collection is being offered in its entirety at Bertoia's and includes these highlights plus many more:

- J. & E. Stevens Lion Hunter - \$10,000-\$15,000
- J. & E. Stevens Calamity - \$10,000-\$15,000
- J. & E. Stevens Dentist - \$10,000-\$15,000
- Initiating First Degree - \$10,000-\$15,000
- Professor Pug Frog - \$7,000-\$10,000
- Kyser & Rex Butting Buffalo - \$6,000-\$9,000
- Shepard Hardware Co. Uncle Sam - \$6,000-\$9,000
- J. & E. Stevens Boy Scout Camp - \$6,000-\$9,000
- Boy Robbing Bird's Nest - \$6,000-\$9,000
- Shepard Hardware Co. Trick Pony - \$5,000-\$7,500



THE LINDA AND CURTIS SMITH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

Linda explained that she is planning to downsize and move from her spacious Santa Barbara residence to a smaller place that would be more appropriate to her current lifestyle.

“Through the years I’ve met such fun people and had so many wonderful times that the items become almost secondary after a while,” she said. “It’s time to look ahead.”

A complete review and showcase of the Smith’s Christmas collection will be forthcoming in the next issue of ANtique Toy World.

Bertoia’s Nov. 17-18, 2022 Annual Fall Auction also features superior-quality European toys, a Marklin Priscilla live-steam boat (ex Bill Bertoia collection), approximately 100 pressed-steel toys (Buddy ‘L,’ Kingsbury, Keystone, etc.) from two prominent collectors, Kingsbury from Michael Yolles, horse-drawn toys, a private robot collection, and a choice selection of figural cast-iron doorstops. The Smiths’ antique Christmas collection is complemented by a large collection of Dresden Christmas ornaments from another consignor.

The auction will take place at Bertoia’s gallery located at 2141 DeMarco Drive, Vineland, NJ 08360, starting at 10 a.m. ET each day. Live attendance is limited and by reservation only. Preview the week before the auction or by appointment only. Bid absentee, by phone, or live online through [Bertoia Live](#) or [LiveAuctioneers](#). For additional information, to reserve a telephone line for bidding or a seat at the gallery, or to make a private-preview appointment, please call 856-692-1881, email [toys@bertoiiauctions.com](mailto:toys@bertoiiauctions.com) or visit Bertoia’s online: [www.bertoiaauctions.com](http://www.bertoiaauctions.com).



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*Presenting the magnificent Christmas  
collection of Curtis & Linda Smith*



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