

ANTIQUUE TOY WORLD



MARCH 24-25, 2023
Signature Spring Auction

Quality Toys | Rare Banks | Museum Grade Auction



FEATURING THE TOY & AUTOMATON COLLECTION OF PHIL & JOAN STEEL



Rudd Trowbridge's mechanical banks & bell toys, and Phil and Joan Steel's tin windups are prestigious headliners at Bertoia's March 24-25 Signature Sale



Highlights: Super-rare Uncle Sam clockwork perambulator, extensive collection of Martin toys, Chimpanzee bank, attic-fresh Voltamp Interurban trolley, European tin racers, top-tier cast iron

Those who enjoy the design and action of antique Fernand Martin windup toys are in for a treat at the March auction. The event features Phil and Joan Steel's collection, one of the nicest and most extensive groupings of Martins to reach the marketplace in years. "We have not seen a collection to match this one perhaps since 2017, when we auctioned the Frank Mohr collection. In fact, many of the best toys in Phil and Joan's collection were acquired at the Mohr auction," said Michael Bertoia.

The Steels' attraction to Martin toys unquestionably can be linked to Phil's occupation as an importer of mechanical instruments – specifically, precision parts similar to those used in watches. A Philadelphian whose ancestors arrived in America in 1730, Phil represents the third generation to operate Swiss Jewel Company – his sons are now the fourth generation.

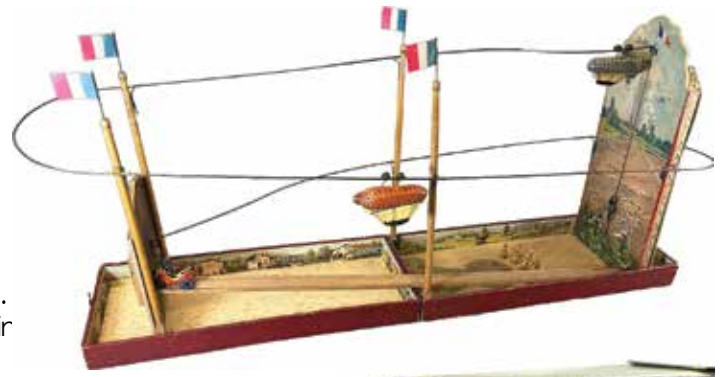


Members of both the ATCA and the MBCA, Phil and Joan collected toys for more than 40 years, always finding themselves most drawn to gravity toys or toys with a windup or clockwork action. When they discovered the French-made Martin series, they quickly became infatuated. According to Phil, their favorites were always the ones that had the most complex operation.

Among their prized Martins entered in the auction are: Le Gymnaste (Acrobatic Gymnast), \$7,000-\$10,000; Roller Skater, \$7,000-\$10,000; Le Gentleman Khaki (Boer War soldier), \$6,000-\$9,000; L'Intrepide Jockey, \$5,000-\$7,500; Le Cherif (Arab nobleman on camel), \$4,000-\$7,000; and Soldat Marocain (Moroccan Soldier), \$4,000-\$6,000.



An enviable selection of European and American trains includes what may be the nicest example of a Voltamp Interurban trolley ever to pass through Bertoia's gallery. Fresh to the market after being discovered in a clean, dry attic, it is estimated at \$12,000 - \$18,000. The railroad section also includes American outline trains and the only example of a Carette 2-gauge Vaucrain engine and tender that Bertoia's experts have ever seen. Collectors can also take their pick from numerous Marklir accessories, which add a first-class touch to any train layout.



Delving into the sensational cast-iron automotive collection, it quickly becomes evident that many of the pieces descend from collecting "royalty" – the Donald Kaufman collection, which was auctioned by Bertoia's in a spectacular series of sales held in 2009-2010. A circa- 1932 Arcade Brinks Express truck is ready to speed off to its new owner and has a \$10,000-\$15,000 estimate. Other high-fliers in the fleet include a Hubley Packard Straight Eight sedan, \$8,000-\$12,000; and a large and extremely Kenton Speed Truck, \$6,000-\$9,000. Also carrying individual estimates of \$6,000-\$9,000 are two sought-after Arcade productions: a 'White' dump truck and 1932 Checker Cab. A 25.5-inch Ives fire hose reel is ready streak out the door for \$3,000-\$5,000.



Cast iron will also appear in the form of figural doorstops. Two Bradley & Hubbard classics that are sure to find favor with collectors are the 13-inch Turkey, \$2,500-\$3,500; and the 16-inch Standing Rabbit, \$1,500-\$2,500.

Many other toy and bank treasures are waiting to be discovered at the two-day event, such as antique board games, racers with provenance from the collection of Bill Gelles, a Daytona driver; and a large grouping of penny toys that includes airplanes, motorcycles and articulated novelties.





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THE RUDD TROWBRIDGE BANK & IRON TOY COLLECTION



FERNAND MARTIN TOYS | LEHMANN'S | PENNY TOYS | EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE TOYS
DOORSTOPS | MECHANICAL & STILL BANKS | EUROPEAN & AMERICAN TRAINS
AIRPLANES & MOTORCYCLES | HAND PAINTED WIND-UPS | BELL TOYS | RACE CARS
AUTOMATONS | CAST IRON AUTOMOTIVE TOYS | EARLY FRENCH TABLE GAMES

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