

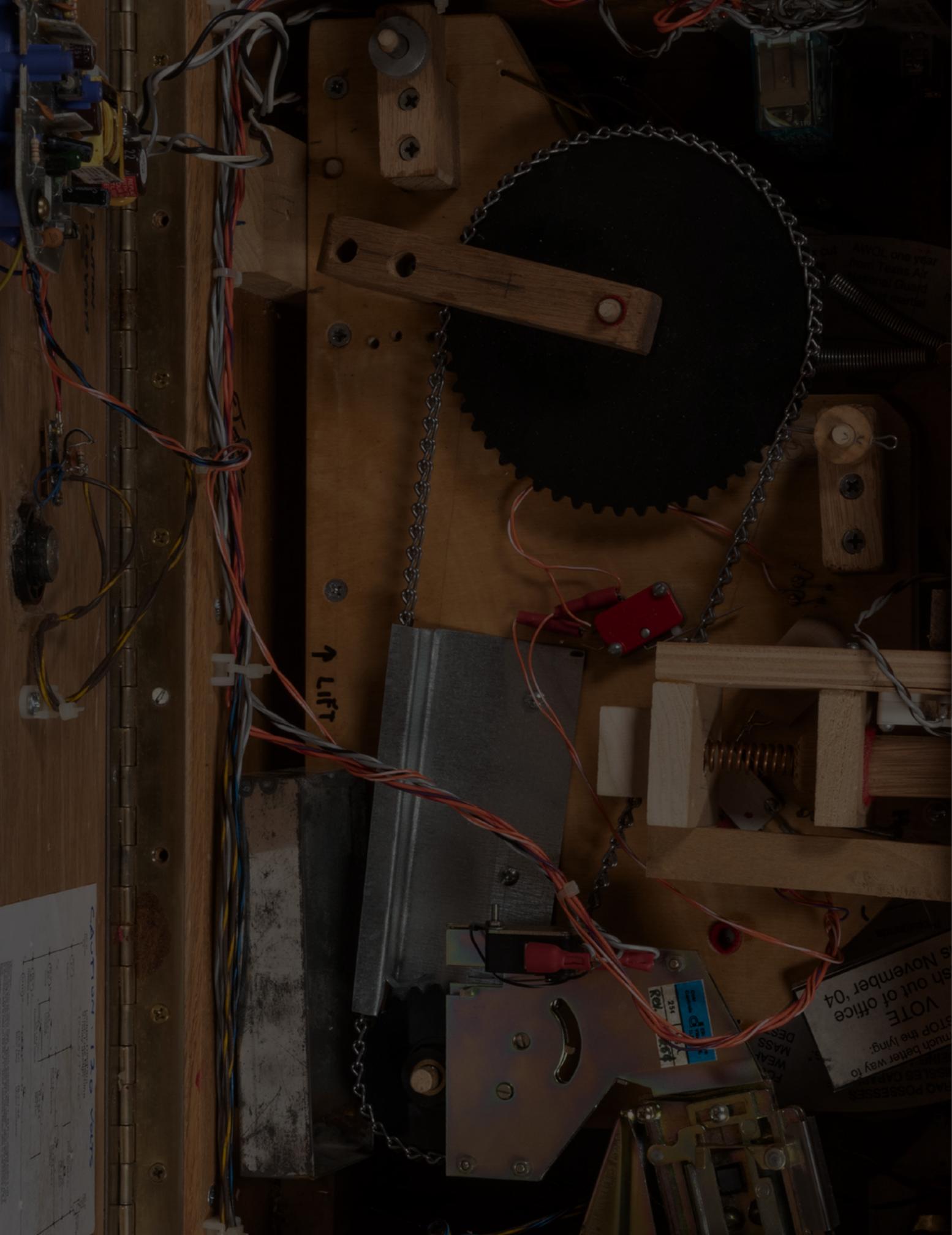
POTTER
—&—
POTTER
AUCTIONS



AUTOMATA

LIFE & OTHER ILLUSIONS

August 24, 2019



PUBLIC AUCTION #075

AUTOMATA

LIFE & OTHER ILLUSIONS

AUCTION

August 24, 2019
10:00am CST

PREVIEW

August 22 - 23
10:00am - 5:00pm
or by appointment

INQUIRIES

info@potterauctions.com
phone: 773-472-1442

CONTENTS

Automata of the Golden Age	2
Modern Automata	26
Toys & Puppets	64



POTTER & POTTER AUCTIONS, INC.
3759 N. RAVENSWOOD AVE. SUITE 121
CHICAGO, IL 60613

AUTOMATA OF THE GOLDEN AGE

1880–1930



1. **Musical Magician Automaton.** France: Alexandre Theroude, ca. 1860. Magician in original satin costume with foil and metal trim, in Turkish slippers, with hand-painted gessoed wooden head, glass eyes, goatee, black silk wig, and silk hat with feathers, who stands at a table with felt drapes trimmed in gilt thread with Dresden paper embellishments, the brass top painted with blue scroll designs, grasping two silvered metal cups, another two cups in the corners of the table, legs painted dark orange. On a velvet-covered stage with ebonized base with inlaid brass strips. Two-air pull string cylinder movement and going-barrel automaton movement.

The magician turns his head side to side and nods, the eyes and mouth moving also, and performs a series of changes with the cups: first a die transposes positions, then changes for a loaf of bread and three balls, then for an apple and three balls, then two pears, and finally nothing, as music plays. Height 13 ½". With original hand-blown glass dome (17" inclusive).

20,000/30,000



2. Musical Monkey Conjuror Automaton. Paris: Jean Phalibois, ca. 1870s. Mechanical monkey automaton, the figure having a hand-painted paper-mache head, glass eyes, and wire glasses, dressed in wizard's hat and robe of silk, satin, lace, and foil. Standing at the back of a wooden table with silk and gilt braided drape, under an arched ivy and rose vine, he grasps metal cups, and a Ball Vase and playing cards also rest on the table. Oval ebonized base, antique hand-blown glass dome.

The monkey turns its head side to side and nods, raising one cup, then the other, then both, where items would change, transpose, or disappear (but presently no change occurs: one side remains empty, and the other reveals a small bauble), as music plays. Height 21". Cards and bauble recent replacements.

6,000/9,000



3. Acrobat Clown on Two Chairs Automaton. Paris: Louis Renou, ca. 1910. The clown, his hands resting between two wooden chairs, slowly raises his body up, balancing on his hands, until he is entirely upside down, balanced precariously between the chairs. At each stage of his ascent, the figure pauses – somewhat dramatically – in anticipation of the next step in the balancing act. As the acrobat performs, an internal music box plays. The figure features a hand-painted head, glass eyes, mohair wig, wire arms, and original silk costume with sequin-studded trim. On the original wooden velvet-covered base designed for a black art-type effect, giving the appearance of a simple floor board supported by two white wooden trestles. 15 x 8 ½ x 18". Sold with a custom glass vitrine for display.

20,000/30,000



4. **Black Banjo Player Automaton.** Paris: Vichy, ca. 1910. The diminutive musician sits atop a white wooden chair, and when the key is turned, he strums the banjo in his hands, picking out a tune. The head, one arm, and one leg move in rhythm with the music played by the concealed music box. Composition head and hands, white lace-cuffed shirt with yellow and grey trim, and matching hat. Brass Vichy key. Height 23". Banjo skin worn, minor rubbing to surface of chair and finish of figure; very good overall.
8,000/12,000



5. **"Piano Watteau" Pianist Automaton.** Paris: Vichy, ca. 1890s. Seated at a white piano-harp with lyre-shaped foot pedal, adorned with gilt ornaments including five cherubs, roses, berries, and floral garlands. Pianist with papier-mache head and hands, glass eyes, and closed mouth with slight smile, white mohair wig, sits with crossed legs in an original silk and lace dress and high-collared floral top, lace stockings, and slippers. On a wooden platform.

Key and pull-lever at right side of piano. When wound, four tunes play in succession, as the pianist turns her head side to side, blinking her eyes and running her hands along keyboard, and occasionally stopping and pressing down quickly with her hands and shoulders as if striking staccato notes. Height 27". One piano leg detached from platform at base and will require repair; some ornaments partly detached or slightly chipped; face with craquelure and retouching. Traditionally said to have been smuggled out of Paris before World War II along with other treasures from a wealthy Frenchman's family, and sold to an attaché to General Douglas MacArthur. It was later moved to Honolulu, where it was stored until it was auctioned in 1984 and, most recently, in 2006.

15,000/25,000



6. Chanteur by the Gaslight Musical Automaton. Paris: Vichy, ca. 1900. Musical mechanical automaton of a black male figure, papier-mache head with glass eyes, painted features, fleeced hair, articulated mouth, later theatrical tuxedo costume consisting of a green and red waistcoat with tails, cummerbund, plaid trousers, satin shirt, and bowtie. Leather shoes, felted hat. Standing against a wooden lamppost on a circular base painted to resemble a brick road, bottom tier covered in velvet.

When wound, the figure makes six movements, raising and lower both arms, the left holding a piece of sheet music, nods his head, blinks his eyes open and closed, opens and closes lips, and the top of the lamp rotates. Height 47".

15,000/25,000



7. Bubble Blowing Bear Automaton. Paris: Roulet & Decamps, ca. 1930. White bear made of real animal fur, with glass eyes and composition hands, holds a metal bowl in one paw and bubble blowing wand in the other. Upon activation, the bear dips the wand in the bowl, raises it to his lips, and blows bubbles from the end of the wand. On a plain wooden base. 17" high.

2,000/3,000



8. Drinking Bear Automaton. Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1940s. The brown and white bear raises the cup to its mouth, takes two swigs, and pours himself another. Genuine fur body with leather and wooden paws, glass eyes, metal cup and bottle. Height 14". Nose damaged, paws worn, but good condition overall. Working.

1,000/2,000



9. **Drinking Bear Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1940s. The dark brown and white bear raises the cup to its mouth, takes two swigs, and pours himself another. Genuine fur body with leather and composition paws, glass eyes, metal cup and bottle. Height 14". Nose missing; good condition overall. Working.

1,000/2,000



10. **Drinking Polar Bear Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1940s. The fur-covered white polar bear figure raises the cup to its mouth, takes two swigs, and pours himself another. Genuine fur body with wooden paws, glass eyes, metal cup and bottle. Height 14". Working.

1,500/2,500



11. **Levitation Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1920s. Large and impressive automaton in the form of a tuxedo-clad magician standing behind a trestle-supported fabric-covered table. The magician's assistant rests atop the table, covered by a fringed satin sheet. When the mechanism is activated, the woman floats up into the air, and the conjurer passes his hoop over her levitating body, as if to prove there is no connection between her body and the table or stage below it. Composition heads and hands, with finely made costumes. On a handsome hardwood base. Motor-driven electric mechanism. Working. Height 28 ½".

15,000/25,000



12. **Drinking Raccoon Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1940s. The fur-covered raccoon raises the cup to its mouth, takes two swigs, and pours himself another. Striped tail. Genuine fur body with wooden paws, glass eyes, metal cup and bottle. Height 14". European wiring. Shows minor wear to tail. Working. An uncommon variant of this classic R&D automaton.
1,500/2,500



13. **Drinking Monkey Automaton.** Circa 1900. Seated monkey figure holds a bottle in one hand and a cup in the other. When the mechanism is activated, he raises the bottle above the cup, pours a drink, and then raises the cup to his lips to drink. Real fur-covered body, leather face, wooden hands, and glass eyes. Internal clockwork mechanism. Height 12". With a custom-made acrylic vitrine. Hands worn; good working condition.

1,500/2,000

An earlier and scarcer version of this perennially-popular version of the drinking animal than those in the preceding lots. Versions of this automaton were fixtures in storefront windows for generations. This example is in choice, well-preserved condition.



14. **Chinese Magician Automaton.** Germany: Adolphe Mueller, ca. 1895. The conjurer stands behind a table, a wand in one hand, a large cone in the other. As the cone is lifted and lowered over the table, the objects underneath it change repeatedly, as if by magic. Finely sculpted head and hands with realistic wig, made to represent a Chinese man from the late nineteenth century. Garbed in finely finished silk clothing with matching fabric-covered base, and draped wooden pedestal-type table. Height 31 1/2". One hand visibly repaired, clothes a bit ragged, evidence of wear to all elements, but very good original condition overall. With a custom acrylic vitrine.

15,000/20,000





15



16



17



18



15. **Walking Bear Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, 1900s. Brown fur-covered bear with trainer's muzzle and chain over his mouth. Four articulated legs terminating in wooden feet allow the bear to walk forward when the clockwork mechanism is activated. Length 9 1/2". Lacks one ear, else very good.

400/600

16. **Roulet & Decamps Lion Animalier Automaton.** Fur-covered lion figure with mohair mane, glass eyes, painted composition mouth and nose, which when wound would leap and roar, but not working. Retaining original "Made in France" silk label. Width 20". Tail cracked but holding.

500/700

17. **Roulet & Decamps Ironing Cat Automaton.** Fur-covered cat figure with glass eyes standing at a wooden ironing board with plastic iron, whose head would nod and arm move side to side with iron. Electrical wiring, not tested. Height 13 1/2".

300/500

18. **Roulet & Decamps Strutting Chicken.** Feather-covered papier-mache body with felt comb, heavy cast metal legs, strutting and laying eggs (not included). Height 12". Losses and matting to feathers. Working condition.

400/600

19. **Growling Bear Automaton.** Circa 1920. The diminutive bear moves up and down and lurches forward when the clockwork mechanism is activated. Covered in real fur with glass eyes and wooden paws. Original brass key at side, on/off switch on chest. Height 10". Working well.

500/1,000

20. No lot.

21. **Walking Pig Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, ca. 1920. Articulated pig with leather-covered body walks forward, turns his head back and forth, and "oinks" after the mechanism is activated. Serrated wheels extend from feet to assist with walking. 6 x 12". Hide a bit soiled, but very good condition overall.

500/700



22. **Walking Peacock Automaton. (Le Paon Marchant).** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, ca. 1910. The mechanical bird walks across the floor, stopping momentarily to raise and then triumphantly fan his tail feathers. The feathers drop back into place and the bird continues walking. Painted metal feet, the body covered with genuine peacock feathers. Later key. With the original trapezoidal box, showing minor wear. Sold with a custom-made Lucite vitrine used to display the automaton. Good working condition.

7,000/9,000



23. **Rabbit in Hat Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, ca. 1910. A snow white rabbit rises from the center of the silk opera hat when the mechanism is triggered. Real fur, glass eyes, and paper leaves covering the interior of the hat, the exterior of which is covered with silk and bears a rhinestone-studded buckle on the fabric band (several stones lacking). The animal's hands move as it bobs up and down in the hat. Music accompanies the movement. Height (hat only) 8". Generally good condition, with minor wear to fabric and fur and sluggish action. Minor adjustment of mechanism suggested.

1,000/2,000

An uncommon version of this R&D automaton, more frequently encountered with the rabbit at the center of a head of lettuce.



24. **Ladder Acrobat Automaton.** Paris: Leopold Lambert, ca. 1890. When the internal mechanism is activated, the female acrobat atop the metal ladder slowly raises herself to a vertical position, upside down, then releases the grip of one hand, performing a hand stand. The figure makes three upward motions, then lowers to rest. Bisque head, glass eyes, silk and lace costume with beaded accents. Plush-covered base with cloth tassels. Height 25". Music box in base accompanies the movement. Original Lambert key. Fabric well worn on base and feet of figure; costume generally very good. Working well. Sold together with a custom-made acrylic vitrine for display.

6,000/8,000





25. **Clown on Ladder Acrobatic Automaton.** Paris: Lambert, ca. 1900. The acrobat raises his body up and kicks back his feet, then lets go with one hand, performing a handstand, pushing upward three times. As the mechanism runs, the figure then regrips the top of the ladder with its free hand and lowers its body to the starting position. A concealed music box plays as the acrobat performs. Orange and yellow plush costume with conical hat, the suit accented with bear figures and flowers. Hand painted bisque face with glass eyes (paint slightly worn). Bottom rung of metal ladder loose. Height 24". Working. Later key. Sold together with a custom-made acrylic vitrine for display.

6,000/8,000



26. **Pierrot on the Moon Automaton.** Paris: Lambert, ca. 1890. The delicately dressed and hand painted Pierrot figure sits at the tip of an anthropomorphized crescent moon. As the mechanism works, the clown plays the instrument in his hands, turns his head, and sticks out his tongue, as the moon opens his mouth and moves his eye. Finely crafted from papier-mache, with glass eyes, hand painted composition face on Pierrot, and original velvet-like costume. Height 20 1/2". Later key. With a custom-made vitrine for display. Good working condition.

12,000/18,000



27. **Marquis Smoker Automaton.** Paris: Leopold Lambert, ca. 1900. Handsomely attired figure with velvet costume trimmed in lace accented with golden metallic sequins holds a pair of opera glasses in one hand and a cigarette holder with the other. When the mechanism is activated, the figure raises the burning cigarette to his lips, apparently inhales, and then exhales a stream of white smoke. Bisque head with braided wig and glass eyes, bisque hands. Later key. Height 23". Working. Costume and base worn in spots, but overall very good condition. With a custom made acrylic vitrine for display.

7,000/9,000



28. **French Double Singing Bird Cage Automaton.** Circa early 20th century. Brass cage with green felted surface, with realistic feathered birds, one perched, the other on the base, whose heads and beaks would move while singing. Height 20 1/2". Diam. 11". With key; not working or examined internally. Rubber feet and wooden cover to underside of later manufacture.

400/600

29. **Karl Griesbaum Singing Bird Music Box Automaton.** Wind-up brass box, finely filigreed with a green, blue, and red bird. Original bird-shaped key. 4 x 2 1/2 x 1 3/4". Not working.

400/600

30. **Singing Bird Cage Automaton.** Griesbaum, ca. 1940. The feathered bird on the brass perch chirps, moving his beak, tail, and head when the lever is tripped. Domed brass cage on metal base. Height 11". Working.

200/300

31. **German Automaton Singing Single Bird Cage.** Brass birdcage on a filigreed platform, containing a red and black bird perched within foliage, which turns its head side to side and flutters its tail while singing. Height 9".

200/300



32

33



35

32. Karl Griesbaum Carved Wooden Whistler Automaton. Mechanical carved figure of a vagrant holding a cane, leaning against a lamppost, turns his head side to side and whistles. Working condition; lamp not tested. Height 19 ½". Marked on the base. **250/350**

33. German Carved Wooden Whistler Automaton. Mechanical carved figure, possibly by Griesbaum, depicting a vagrant leaning against a lamppost, turns his head side to side and whistles. Working condition; lamp not tested. Height 18 ½". Chipping to arm around post. **200/300**

34. German Carved Wooden Whistler Automaton. Mechanical carved figure, possibly by Griesbaum, depicting a vagrant with alcohol bottle in pocket, leaning against a lamppost, turns his head side to side and whistles. Height 18". Working condition, lacking rear cover; lamp not tested. Slight chipping to shoe and base. Also includes a Japanese (Waco) whistler, battery operated, not working. **200/300**

35. Growling Bulldog Nodder. Circa 1890. Papier-mache bulldog with glass eyes and roller feet. When the chain attached to the dog's collar is pulled, its mouth opens and the dog barks. Exterior well worn, tail lacking, but nodding and growling/barking feature in good working condition. A large example; length 16 ½". **500/1,000**



34



36. Clown Acrobat with Two Chairs Automaton. Paris: Vichy, ca. 1895. The clown stands between two white wooden chairs. When the mechanism is activated, he first lifts one chair in his right hand, then lowers it to the stage. Then, the clown executes a handstand atop the opposite chair, moving up and down and lifting the other chair in his free hand at the same time. The clown also moves his head, then lowers one chair, and finally his entire body is returned to the rest position. Two-tone wig accenting a finely hand-painted composition face with glass eyes. Velvet and silk bodice with fine details and crystal-like adornments and butterfly motif. Concealed music box in wooden base accompanies the automaton's motion. Hand crank mechanism at rear. Height 38 ½". Hairline crack to one side of figure's head, else very good. Head likely a replacement by Michel Bertrand. A fine and large example of this outstanding, classic automaton. **20,000/30,000**



37. **Smoking Black Boy Automaton.** Paris: Roulet & Decamps, ca. 1890. Seated in a bamboo chair with a pipe in one hand, when the mechanism is engaged, the figure raises the pipe to his lips and smokes real tobacco, blowing out smoke as the pipe is lowered to rest. The figure also turns his head, moves his free hand, and his lower lip. A concealed music box accompanies the movement. Finely formed figure with glass eyes and realistic wig. Chair mounted to velvet-covered base, which is, in turn, resting on a vintage (but likely not original) velvet-covered display stand bearing a butterfly motif on its front panel. Clockwork mechanism concealed in the body of the figure. Height 33". Fabric elements all worn, but generally good condition. With key. Sold with a large vintage vitrine with peaked top (height 63").

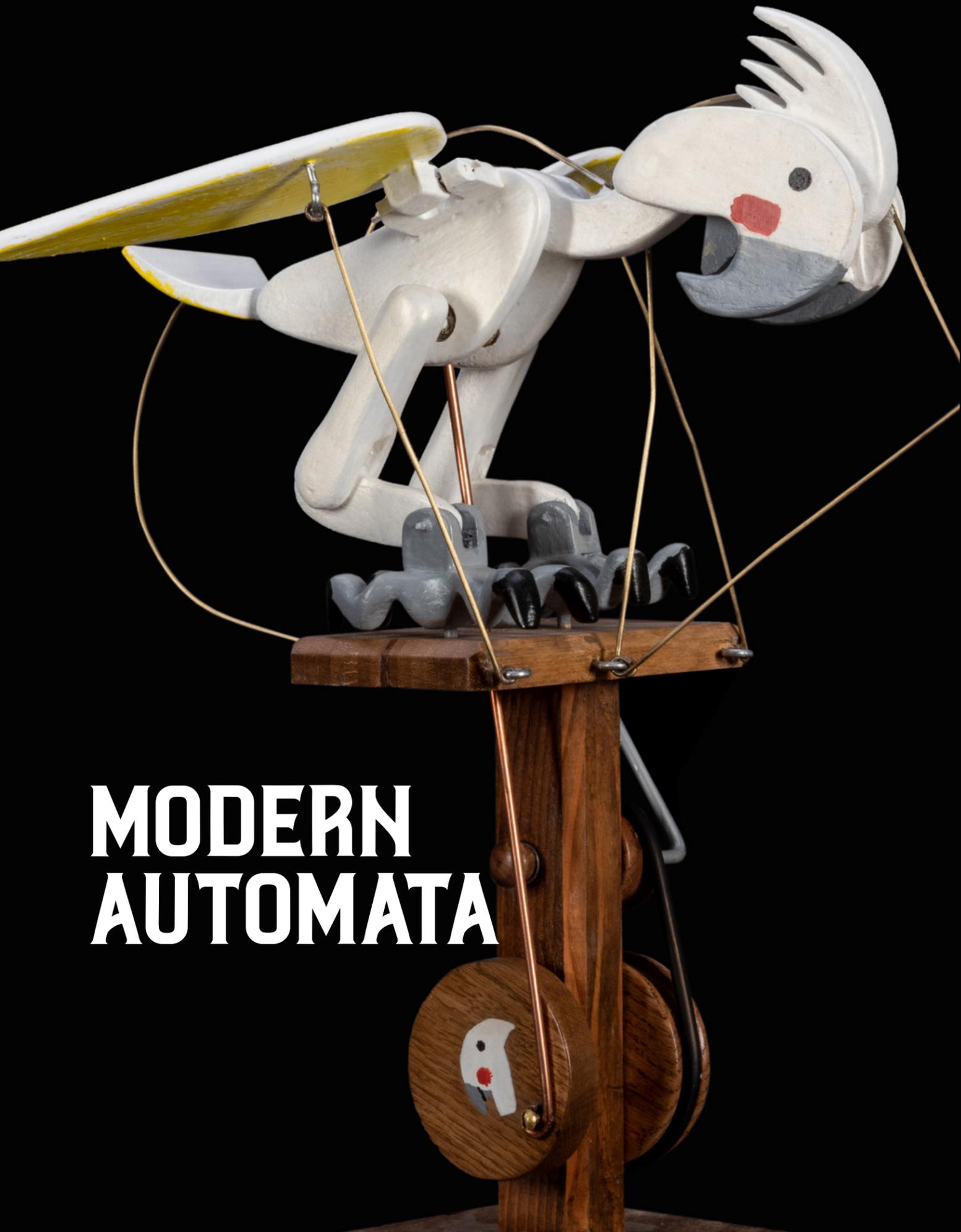
15,000/20,000



38. **Peasant and "Baby" Piglet Musical Automaton.** Vichy, ca. 1900. Musical mechanical automaton, the peasant having an expressive plaster-composition head, glass eyes, articulated mouth, felt hat and mohair wig, with original embroidered satin, silk, and velvet costume, wooden shoes, sitting on a chair with rucksack tied at the side. Carved and painted piglet with glass eyes, protruding tongue.

The peasant turns his head and nods, shrugs his upper body and shakes right leg, lowering the morsel to the piglet's mouth, and the piglet turns its head toward the food, as a melody plays. Minor chipping to the piglet's head and peasant's left hand, otherwise fine, no mouth movement of either figure. Height 31". Literature: Bailly, *The Golden Age of Automata*, p. 98.

10,000/20,000



MODERN AUTOMATA



39. **Vanishing Head Automaton.** A drunken man stands between a wooden barrel and a stack of crates, holding a fan in one hand. As the mechanism is activated, he raises the fan in front of his face, and when it is lowered, his head has vanished. Then, the top of the barrel pops up, and inside is seen the missing head. The man's head drops back down into the barrel, the fan is waved in front of the body, and the head reappears atop it. The motion continues and the man's head vanishes, again, only to pop up from inside the uppermost of the three stacked crates. The head then reappears on the man's body, as if all of the activity were merely a drink-induced dream. Finely clothed and finished, with velvet-covered base concealing mechanism and music box that accompanies the action. Height 20 1/2". Good working condition.
2,000/3,000



40. Rising Card Magician Automaton. Los Angeles: Alan Wakeling, ca. 2002. Handsome magician automaton stands behind a fanciful table holding a vase with flowers and a houlette on a separate table containing a pack of miniature cards. As the crank is turned in the base, the magician looks toward the cards, raises one hand, and a card rises from the houlette, matching a card selected by a member of the audience. The card descends into the houlette, and then the automaton turns his view to the flowers, which bloom from tiny buds into full flowers. Operated with a hand-crank mechanism, the action accompanied by the music of Pachelbel from a concealed music box. Components crafted by Alan Wakeling and his wife Helen; Alan constructed the mechanism and working parts, Helen sculpted the face. Height 33", base 17 x 14 x 7".

7,000/9,000

*One of Wakeling's automatons was featured, to great acclaim, in the Off-Broadway show *Ricky Jay and his 52 Assistants*. Wakeling designed many of the world's best known stage illusions, and was a renowned magician in his own right.*



41. Ernest the Poet Musical Automaton. Switzerland: Michel Bertrand, ca. 1982. Sitting atop the back of a white wooden chair with a satchel of paintbrushes at one side, the poet holds a sketchbook in one hand and a pencil in the other. When the mechanism is activated, the automaton apparently draws further in the book, while moving his eyes, lips, and hands. Handsomely dressed in the bohemian style, including plaid pants, hat, yellow shirt with purple bow tie, and bearing a monocle in one eye. Composition head and hands with glass eyes. Height 36". Modeled on the Victorian design by Vichy.

7,000/9,000



42. **Clown Magician Automaton.** Switzerland: Michel Bertrand, ca. 1993. The magician stands behind his green velvet-draped table, a wand in one hand, and a large red cone in the other. As the mechanism operates, the cone is lifted and lowered by the clown, and as a concealed music box plays, the objects on the table change six times. The clown also nods his head, opens his mouth, and blinks his eyes. On a fabric-draped wooden base concealing an eight cam clockwork mechanism. Key wound. Composition head and eyes, with finely finished costume in yellow, red, and black fabrics framing a white shirt. Height 38". Inspired by a Vichy design. Very good.

20,000/30,000

Built to the order of Jerry and Bunny Steinbaum, and inspired by the Vichy/Triboulet automaton titled "Clown aux boules Mysterieuses" Michel Bertrand is acknowledged as the successor to the famous firms of Vichy/Triboulet/JAF, and incorporated many original Vichy parts in his automata.



43. **Musical Gymnast with Two Chairs Automaton.** Michel Bertrand, 1984, after Vichy's model. A male gymnast standing on a walnut base with red velvet cover, between white chairs. Figure with a theatrically painted face of tan complexion, glass eyes, black mohair wig, costume consisting of silk and embroidered velvet trousers, sleeves, vest, shirt and cummerbund, and gilt Turkish slippers.

As the music of "Oh du lieber Augustin" begins, the gymnast raises his right arm and nods his head, grasps the right-hand chair and raises it straight out and holds it for a few moments. Lowering the chair, he performs a handstand, lifting both legs from the stage. Last, he repeats the handstand, but this time balances on one arm, and raises a chair while in the same position. Height 33". Commissioned in 1984 from Bertrand by Jerry and Bunny Steinbaum.

15,000/25,000





44. Pierrot Writing Automaton. Switzerland: Michel Bertrand, ca. 1975. The Pierrot, seated at a writing desk replete with a brass oil lamp, holds a quill in one hand. A letter lays on the table before him. When the mechanism is activated, the lamp is lit, and the figure begins writing. He nods off, and as he does, the lamp light dims on its own. Awakening, the Pierrot reaches toward the lamp, adjusts the flame, and begins writing again, finishing his letter. Garbed in a white-and-black fabric costume, papier mache head, glass eyes. The action of the figure is accompanied by a hidden music box concealed in the body of the Pierrot. Modeled on the Vichy design of the nineteenth century, and outfitted with a clockwork motor. One of a handful made to order by Bertrand. With a custom acrylic vitrine for display.

20,000/30,000



45. Magician Automaton from the Film "Sleuth." Paris: JAF [?], ca. 1925/30. A nearly life-size conjuror figure outfitted in an elaborate turban and costume, holding a wand in one hand and a large velvet cone in the other. The automaton features glass eyes, and an articulated lower lip. He stands behind a finely carved wood table filled with arcane symbols, which assist in the concealment of the automaton's mechanism. The figure's body terminates in a papier-mache skirt, concealing an eight-cam electric motor that allows the magician to look from side to side, at the table top, and move his eyes to the left or the right, along with his lower lip, as though mumbling spells. At the same time, the conjurer waves his wand four times, then lifts the cone, to display one of six items, as if, with each step in the sequence, the object under the cone magically changes at the wave of his wand. Original costume and turban. Height 56 1/2". Lacks finger tips on right hand, head and wrist movements need adjustment. Eight movements.

40,000/60,000

Sleuth, a big-screen "whodunit" mystery film filled with plot twists and turns, featured Oscar-nominated performances from Sir Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine. This automaton is one of two that plays a prominent role in the movie, and is clearly visible throughout the film, including the final sequence.



46. **Turkish Smoking Automaton.** France: Farkas, ca. 1980. Silk-costumed figure with bisque head and glass eyes raises the hookah to his mouth, smokes, and fans himself with the feather-covered fan in his opposite hand. Sitting cross-legged on a velvet covered base, with two-cylinder mechanism and music box concealed inside. 8 x 8 x 12 ¾". Minor wear to fabric; generally very good condition. Smoking function not tested, other actions and music box in good working order.

1,000/2,000



47. **Musical Conjurer Automaton.** Spain: Zdenka, contemporary. Single air cylinder musical movement causes the miniature magician to wave a wand and lift the box as the cards on the table change three times, finally vanishing. Bisque head, embroidered jacket, pleated sleeves. Velvet-covered base. 12 ½" tall. Working. With a custom-made acrylic vitrine for display.

800/1,200



49

48. **Musical Magician Automaton.** Spain: Zdenka, 20th century. Magician figure with bisque head and glass eyes, standing at a table where a series of cards would change and vanish. Felt covered platform. Not working. Height 12".

300/500

49. **Magician Automaton.** Cheshire: Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo, 2010. Large figure transforms objects hidden under a cone as it is lowered and raised. Finely costumed magician stands in before a black walnut table with inlaid designs. A music box is visible through a clear panel on the front of the automaton's base, and plays while the figure operates. Hand crank mechanism. Base 11 ½ x 8 ½"; height 16".

1,500/2,500



48



50. **Magic Pasha Automaton.** Connecticut: Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo, 2008. The robed Pasha, seated behind two fanciful tents, oversees a magical transposition. As the mechanism operates, the Pasha is fanned by one of his attendants, then waves his wand and hand. The doors to the tents before him open revealing a woman seated in one, and the other empty. The Pasha casts his spell and the doors close, opening moments later to reveal the woman has vanished from one tent to reappear in the other. Between the two tents sits a peacock, who spreads his feathers as the automaton operates. A small bird in a tree behind one tent also flaps his wings as the scene is played out. Operated with a hand crank at one side and a variety of brass levers at the front of the automaton. On a hardwood base concealing a music box which accompanies the action. 20 x 22 x 16". Modeled on the famous Chinese magician automaton of Phalibois. Bearing an engraved brass maker's plaque, and signed on the platform by the maker. Mechanism in need of adjustment.

15,000/25,000



52

51. **Sawing a Woman in Half Illusion Automaton with Barrel Organ.** Connecticut: Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo, 2008. Hand-painted figures on a hardwood stage with curtain, brass oil-burning lamps attached at edge, brightly painted cabinet. Barrel organ by Castlewood concealed above stage, accessible from door at the top of the cabinet. Engraved gilt maker's plaque at side. As the crank is turned by hand, the organ plays loudly while the magician inserts a saw into the cabinet holding his assistant, then the cabinet door open to reveal the unharmed lady. 32 x 24 x 14".

2,000/3,000

52. **Rosalinda Bubble Blowing Witch Automaton.** Connecticut: Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo, 2008. Craggy-faced witch sits in the crook of a tree branch, a broom in one hand, and a brass bubble wand in the other. A brass cauldron sits in front of her in the crook of another branch. As the mechanism is activated, the witch dips the bubble wand into the cauldron, stirs it about, and eventually lifts it to her lips, blowing a stream of bubbles. Composition head and hands; brass mechanism concealed in tree. Winding key in the shape of a snake. Maker's name on engraved brass plaque at base. Height 20". Working.

3,000/5,000



51



53. **An 11-Bloom Rose Bush Automaton.** England: Granville Taylor (Faust), ca. 2010. All-brass faux rose bush resting in a handsome wooden pot that slowly blooms real roses on command, which may then be cut from the plant and presented to the spectators as keepsakes of the performance. Wind-up clockwork mechanism concealed in the hardwood pot fabricated from a modified gramophone motor. A few leaves bent and with minor chips to finish, but overall, very good working condition. Height 36" With original wooden "scrimmed" packing case.

2,500/3,500



54. **A 24-Bloom Rose Bush Automaton.** England: Granville Taylor (Faust), ca. 2010. Largest model of this automaton device, being an all-brass faux rose bush resting in a handsome wooden pot that slowly blooms real roses on command, which may then be cut from the plant and presented to the spectators as keepsakes of the performance. Wind-up clockwork mechanism concealed in the hardwood pot fabricated from a modified brass gramophone motor. A few leaves bent and with minor chips to finish, but overall, very good working condition. Height 49" With wooden "scrimmed" packing case.

3,500/4,500

Two hand-made modern versions of the venerable Petrie & Lewis "Flowering Rose Bush" of the 1930s and 40s, and one of but a handful manufactured by illusionist Granville Taylor from a design of his own conception.



55. **Blooming Orange Tree Automaton.** England: Granville Taylor (Faust), ca. 2010. Handmade from brass with brass leaves and stems, painted to represent a fruit tree. On the command of the performer, the tree blooms white blossoms, then, moments later, real oranges grow, which may be plucked from the tree and distributed to the spectators. Handsome hardwood pot conceals modified brass gramophone motor which controls the blooming of the flowers and oranges. Key wound. Height 49" With wooden "scrimmed" packing case.

4,000/6,000



56. **Robert-Houdin Blooming Orange Tree.** New Port Richey: Paul Lembo, ca. 2007. Giant version of the classic automaton orange tree made famous by the "father of modern magic," Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin at his famous Paris theatre. The barren tree, resting in a large wooden pot, first blooms white blossoms. Then, in a staggered progression, five real oranges grow on the tree, which can be plucked from it and distributed to the audience. The finale of the effect comes when a final orange appears at the top of the tree, breaks in half, and two mechanized butterflies flutter upward, holding a previously vanished handkerchief to which is tied a previously borrowed ring. Height 67". One of six units manufactured.

3,000/5,000



57. **Animatronic Capuchin Monkey "Attaboy" Automaton.** Cheshire: Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo, contemporary. Unique, custom-made battery-operated animatronic automaton in the form of a large capuchin monkey clothed in vest, hat and pants, resting on a large velvet-draped base on heavy wheels. The monkey aids a stage magician in performing a card trick: members of the audience select two or three cards from a deck of cards, which is returned to a houlette built into the table before the monkey, who picks the cards out and, with a marker in hand, draws their value and suit on the whiteboard behind him. Moving eyes, tail, and arm controlled remotely. Height 64". Includes extensive instruction manual outlining the packing, setting, re-setting, and operation of the device, and explaining the control mechanism used to animate it.

20,000/30,000



58

58. **Le Petit Automate.** Las Vegas: Mike Michaels, ca. 2010. A borrowed finger ring changes into a golden key, which is used to wind up an automaton bird resting in a velvet-covered box. The bird moves, sings, flaps his wings, and lays a golden egg. When the egg is opened, the missing ring is discovered inside. Complete with instructions and accessories. 20 1/2" high. As new.

2,600/3,800

59. **Enrico Bertschinger Mickey Mouse Magician Automaton.** Barcelona/Switzerland, contemporary. Electric automaton with clock depicts Mickey Mouse on a stage behind a table, surrounded by magic props, with a curtain background.

1,000/2,000



59



60



61



62



63



60. **Gymnast Clown Electric Automaton.** Circa 1980s. Plush yellow acrobatic clown with plastic eyes, polyester bowtie, and orange hair, gripping a horizontal bar and swinging up and over into a hanging position, repeating the move over and over. Motor concealed in clown's hat. Height 32". Working condition.

300/500

61. **Jerry Harper "The Potter" Automaton.** 1992. Mechanical wooden automaton depicts a potter, whose foot pumps the pottery wheel as the vase spins around. Signed on the underside. 21 x 10 1/2 x 10 1/2". Near fine.

250/350

62. **Pizza Dough Roller Electric Automaton.** Chef figure with ceramic hand-painted face and hands, polyester costume with hat, rolling dough on a laminate table. 11 x 9 1/2 x 10". Slight chipping to corner of table.

150/250

63. **Electric Farming / Bootlegging Automaton.** Electric automaton with wooden pieces and cabinet, works visible through clear plastic opening. Five concurrent animations: a buxom woman churning a barrel, chicken pecking at ground, man on ground turning head from liquor tap to bottle, man turning and looking through spyglass at the woman, one eye popping out of his head, and man appearing in lower shelf with raised middle finger. Signed "P. Boye" on the cabinet. 10 x 10 x 5 3/4".

100/200

PIERRE MAYER

64. **Blooming Orange Tree Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2005. As the handle is cranked, the small tree grows white blossoms, then bears orange fruits. Finally, the orange at the top splits open to reveal a silk handkerchief pulled upward by two butterflies. Modeled after the famous automaton/magic trick of Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin, the "father of modern magic," and with a cut-out three-quarter length portrait of the Frenchman mounted behind the automaton. 5 x 3 x 12". Sold together with a contemporary flip book by Mayer showing the automaton in action.

3,000/5,000





66

65. **Clown with Vanishing Head Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2006. Handmade wooden automaton with exposed works. A clown holds a fan in front of its head momentarily; when the fan pulls away, the head has vanished and reappears in a box beside the clown. Hardwood and metal construction. 5 ¾ x 3 ½ x 10". Signed by Mayer. Working; head atop body in need of adjustment. Very good.

1,500/2,000

66. **Geisha Girl Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2002. Handmade wooden automaton with exposed works. The Geisha raises the cup to show a ball underneath. As the crank is turned, the cup descends, she waves a fan, the cup is raised and the ball has vanished - only to reappear on her shoulder. Hardwood and metal construction. 6 x 3 x 7". Signed by the maker.

800/1,200



65



68

67. **Japanese Conjurer Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2004. Wooden automaton with exposed works. The Japanese magician raises the cup to show a ball underneath. The cup descends, and the magician waves a fan in his other hand. The cup is then raised and the ball has vanished - only to reappear in the magician's mouth. Unlike similar automata, there is no hole in the table through which the ball vanishes. Hardwood and metal construction. 6 x 3 ½ x 7 ½". Hallmarked. Ball on tabletop slightly off-center, else very good.

1,200/1,800

68. **Harlequin Trapezist Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2000s. Wooden automaton with exposed works. A small-scale replica of magician's automaton popular in the nineteenth century, the trapeze artist appears out of a wooden trunk and disappears back into the trunk by cranking handle. Hardwood and metal construction. 6 x 3 ½ x 6". Signed by Mayer. Working.

1,500/2,000



67



69. **Laetitia Princess of the Air Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2012. A small wooden figure levitates in front of a mirror, and her hands and arms extend as she rises. Handmade from wood and metal with exposed works. 6 x 3 x 10". Signed by the maker.

1,500/2,000



70. **Self-Levitation Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2000s. Wooden and metal mechanical hand-cranked automaton with exposed works, depicting magician and film producer Christian Fechner, who levitates from his stool with no apparent connection. 10 x 6 x 3 1/2". Working. Signed by the maker. Very good.

1,000/1,500



71. **Siegfried & Roy Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2002. Handmade wooden automaton with exposed works. The famous Las Vegas magic duo performs the Metamorphosis trunk trick. When the brass handle is cranked a curtain is raised and lowered, the door of the box opens, the magicians change places, and a white tiger makes an unexpected appearance in the process. Hardwood and metal construction. 5 x 3 x 10". Hallmarked.

2,000/3,000



72. **The Turk Chess-Player Automaton.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, ca. 2010s. Hand-painted wooden automaton with exposed works. Modeled after Von Kempelen's famous eighteenth century chess-player automaton, and depicting the player raising and lowering a chess piece as the doors to the cabinet open and close – from one view, a man is seen inside the cabinet, but from the other he has disappeared. 11 1/2 x 6 x 3 1/2". Signed by the maker.

1,500/2,000



73



75

73. **Drummer Sand Toy.** Paris: Pierre Mayer, 2014. Charming figure of a drummer in costume taps away on a snare drum repeatedly. Sand motivated; based on a design of a classic antique toy. Glass, metal, and cardboard construction. Signed by the maker. Very good.

300/500



74

74. **The Tiger Tamer Automaton.** England: Frank Nelson, 2008. As the crank is turned, the tiger tamer cracks his whip twice. The big cat at his left refuses to perform his trick, shaking his head twice in dissent. Finally, the tiger accedes, but instead of allowing the man to put his head in the tiger's mouth, the tamer opens his jaws wide to allow the big cat's head inside of *his* mouth. Finely carved wooden figures, all components hand painted. Height 14". One of five from the improved edition, updating the original versions hand crafted by Nelson beginning in the 1970s. Signed and numbered by the maker on the reverse of the tent.

3,000/5,000

Nelson's automatons generally ended each "story" they told with an O'Henry-like twist, as evidenced in this model, which Nelson himself referred to as "the best idea I ever had."

75. **Sausage and Sardines Automaton.** England: Frank Nelson, 1986. A cat stands at a table on which a can of sardines rest. A painted dog looks on in the background. Electrically operated, not working. One table leg with peeling paint, otherwise very good. 11 1/2 x 11 1/2". Plaque with artist's name, date, and title.

400/600



77

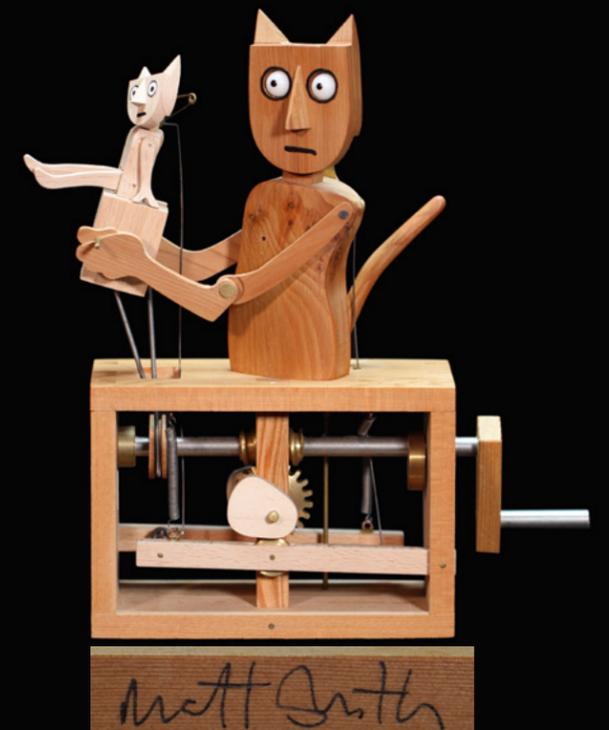
MATT SMITH.
PAUL SPOONER & FOURTEEN BALLS TOY CO.

76. **Barecat Automaton.** Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 1999. As the crank is turned, the cat turns yet another crank in his own hand, activating the miniature cat automaton held in his own hands. Modeled on the design of the logo of the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. Designed by Matt Smith and Paul Spooner. Height 7 1/2". Hallmarked and signed by the Smith. One of possibly 200 or fewer manufactured, and one of the firm's most recognizable automatons.

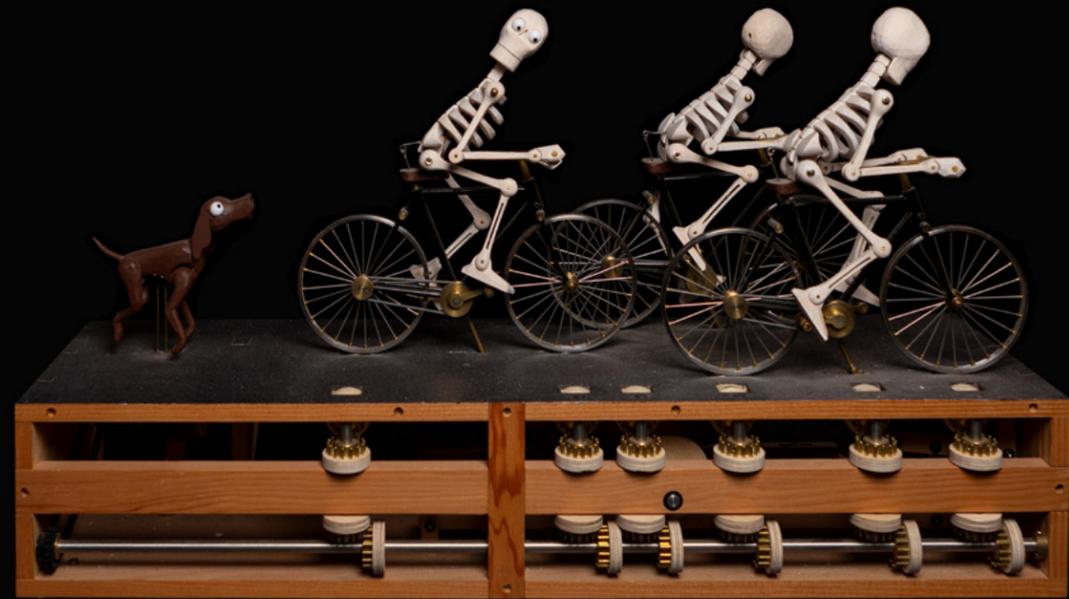
400/600

77. **The Boneshaker Automaton.** Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2011. A skeleton riding a bicycle flees for its life, riding away from the hound that perpetually chases it. As the skeleton pedals, it turns around to stare at the hound. 13 1/2 x 4 x 12". Hallmarked and dated. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of perhaps 20 units manufactured.

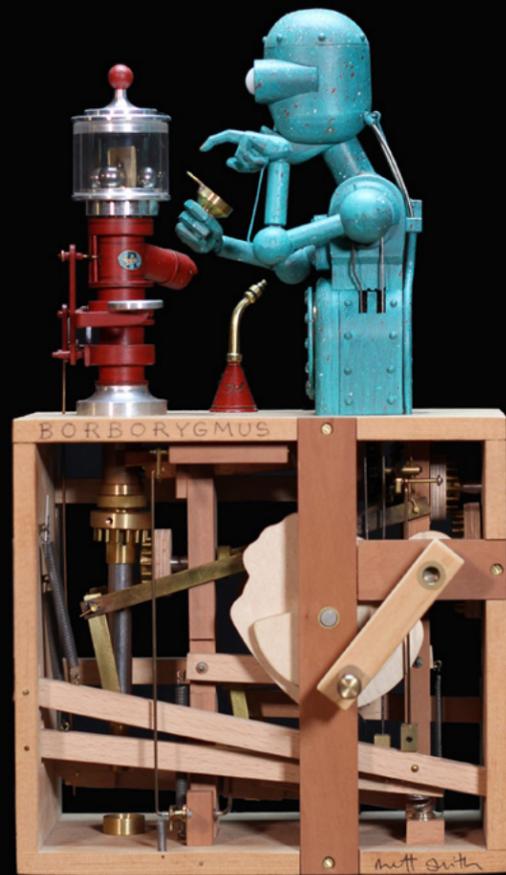
800/1,200



76



78



79

78. The Boneshakers Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2010. Three skeletons atop bicycles flee for their lives from the hound that perpetually chases them. As the skeletons pedal, they turn their heads around to stare down the dog. 21 x 6 x 12". Hallmarked and dated. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of perhaps 20 units manufactured.

800/1,200

79. Borborygmus Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2016. The Borborygmus contemplates the contents of a clear dispenser, pushes the lever, and a silver ball is delivered into his cup. He swallows the ball, and it can be seen churning in his stomach. Height 13". Hallmarked and dated. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of 20 units manufactured.

1,000/2,000



82



80

80. Camel Simulator Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2008. Anubis rides camel, and as the crank is turned, the animal's hump bounces up and down, as does the rider. The hump's motion makes the clip-clopping noise of hooves on hard ground in the process. Designed by Paul Spooner, constructed by Matt Smith. Height 7 3/4". Hallmarked.

200/300

81. Dodo Bird Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2017. The periwinkle-colored bird flaps its wings and runs at a frenzied pace as the handle is cranked. Designed and constructed by Matt Smith. Height 9". Hallmarked and signed by the maker.

400/600

82. Fainting Goat Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2018. The hapless "fainting" goat chews a mouthful of firecrackers; a loud BANG is heard, and the goat faints. As the handle is cranked the goat stands back up and continues chewing. Hardwood and brass construction with 12 station Geneva mechanism. Height 11 3/4". Hallmarked and dated. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of 15 units manufactured.

700/900

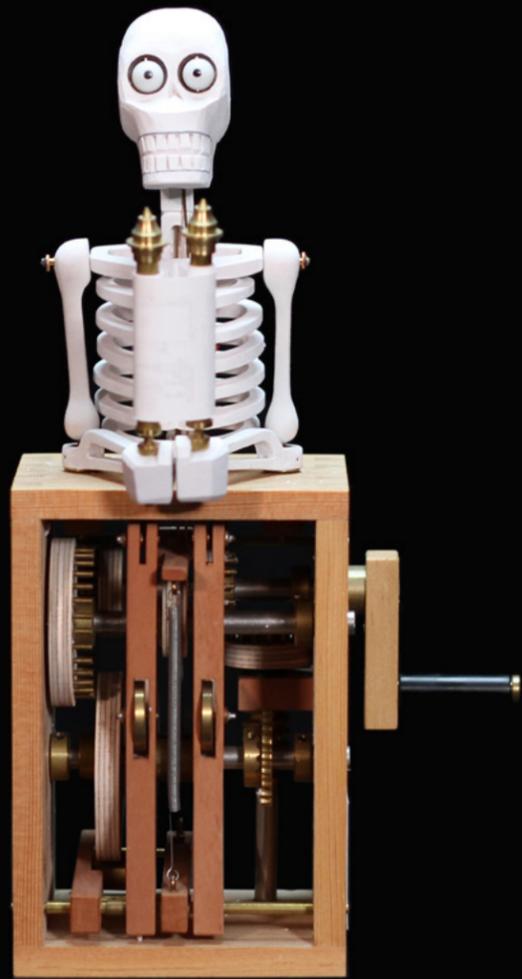


81



AS ANY GOATKEEPER WILL TELL YOU, THE MALE GOAT IS GOOD FOR ONLY TWO PURPOSES. MAKING MORE GOATS OR BARBEQUEING. THIS IS BECAUSE THE STENCH GENERATED BY ITS ANAL GLANDS IS INTOLERABLE EVEN TO A FEMALE EXCEPT DURING A VERY SHORT PERIOD IN HER CREATIVE CYCLE. THUS YOU CAN BE VERY SURE THAT, EVEN THOUGH THEIR UDDERS HAVE NOT YET BLOSSOMED, THESE TWO YOUNG CURATES IN THE CHURCH OF GOATLAND ARE FEMALE.

83. Goat Organ Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2003. Two goats team up to play a disjointed wooden pipe organ. One operates the pedals, the other the keys. As the crank is turned, the pipes of the organ sound and the goats move about. Walnut, ebony and other hardwoods incorporated into the design; leather bellows. Height 19". Hallmarked. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of 15 units manufactured. **1,200/1,800**



THE SECRET
WHILST PERUSING THE LATEST DESIGNS, THIS SKELETON CHECKS FOR RIVALS WHO MIGHT WISH TO STEAL HIS SECRET, THUS DENYING HIM THE PLEASURE OF CAUSING MAYHEM AND DISORDER WHEN THE CAREFULLY GUARDED CONFIDENCE IS REVEALED.

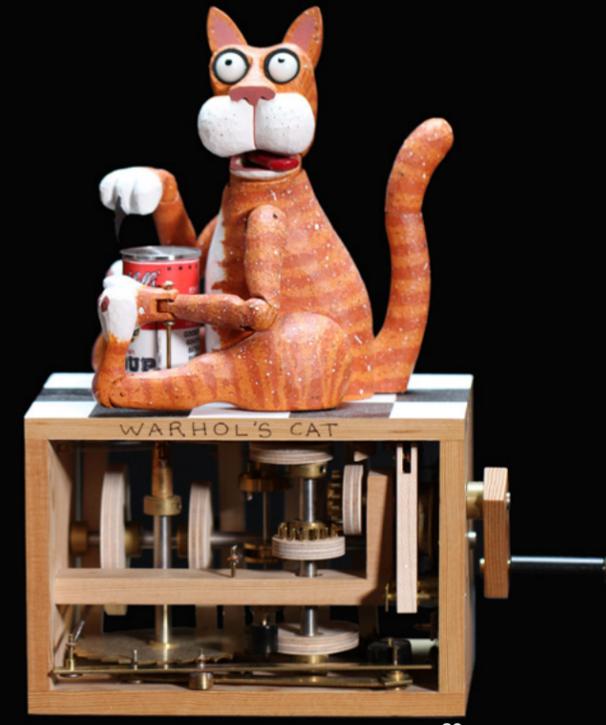
84. The Secret. Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., ca. 2013. The grinning skeleton unspools a scroll covered in architectural plans held between his hands and looks it over, then closes it quickly. Hardwoods, brass, and stainless steel construction. Height 9 3/4". Working. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. One of 34 units manufactured. **500/700**



85. Sleeping Musculature Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., ca. 1990. The miniature Anubis performs endless sit-ups as the handle is cranked. Wooden construction. Length 5". Working. Signed by the maker, Matt Smith. **200/300**



86. Warhol's Cat Automaton. Cornwall: Fourteen Balls Toy Co., 2015. The wide-eyed cat uses one claw in his attempt to open the can of Campbell's soup in his paws. As the crank is turned, the cat's head spins, his tail wags, the can turns, and the cat's tongue wags back-and-forth. The cat hand painted and carved from lime wood. Mechanism with a clever ratchet design. Designed and constructed by Matt Smith. Height 9". Hallmarked and signed by the maker. **1,000/1,500**



87. Anubis Magician Automaton. Fourteen Balls/Matt Smith, 2014. Mechanical automaton showing the Egyptian god Anubis with a pyramid cover, changing a scarab beetle living, then dead, and finally mummified. Height 9". Fine. **200/300**



88



90



89



91



93



92



94

88. **How Much! Automaton.** Fourteen Balls/Matt Smith, 2014. Wooden mechanical automaton with exposed works. A man brings a price tag up to reading position and his eyes bulge out completely from their sockets, before returning the tag to his elbow. Height 8".

200/300

89. **An Exercise In Futility Automaton.** Fourteen Balls/Matt Smith, 2014. Wooden mechanical automaton with concealed works. As the crank is turned, the skeleton performs push-ups. 5 ¼ x 6 ½ x 3".

200/300

90. **Matt Smith "Giant" Automaton.** 2016. Wooden mechanical automaton with exposed works. A male figure slowly looks upward, his mouth opening and his eyes bulging further and further from their sockets, as if beholding a behemoth. Height 6 ½".

150/250

91. **Steampunk Dragon.** England: Keith Newstead, ca. 2013. As the crank is turned, the dragon flaps its wings and lurches back and forth as if in flight. Height 10 ½". Wooden base signed and numbered by the maker.

150/250

92. **The Great Fishtank in the Sky Automaton.** England: Keith Newstead, ca. 2000. As the crank is turned, the crouching cat, sporting a halo and angel's wings, opens his mouth to eat an endless supply of fish that jump down his throat. Wooden and metal composition. Maker's label, hand-numbered 97. Height 6 ¾".

400/600

93. **Keith Newstead Trio of Automatons.** Including Icarus Flies Undone, Flights of Fancy, and Pegasus. Tallest 13". Each figure's wings flap and other parts move as cranked.

250/350

94. **Paul Spooner "Not Yet" Automaton.** Clever automaton depicting a fish out of water, sliding around and flipping over repeatedly on a sheet of foil. 2 x 1 ½ x 1". Signed and numbered example 29 on the base and on the accompanying original box.

100/150

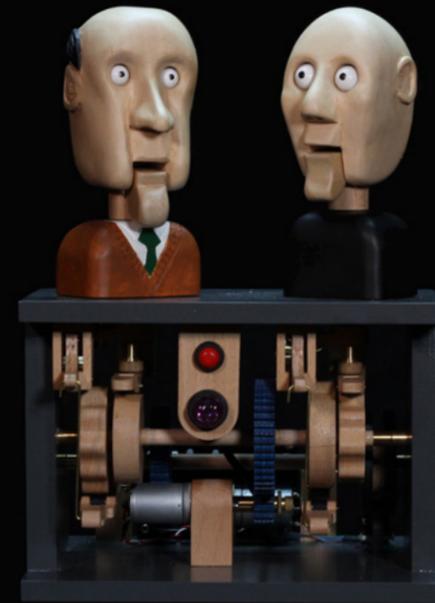


PHILIP LOWNDES

95. **A Friendly Gesture Automaton.** Hinxton: Philip Lowndes, 2015. The man pets the dog, then the dog sniffs the man's crotch. He winces in pain and turns his head away from the animal and sticks his free hand in the way of future attacks, as a way to apparently defend himself. Fine hardwood construction including birch and beech, with exposed works. Maker's label, signed and numbered, at the reverse. Fifty turns are required to run the automaton through a complete cycle. Height 16 ½". Good working condition.

1,500/2,500

By the maker's own account, the most complex automaton he has ever designed and constructed.



96

96. **A Private Conversation. Animatronic Automaton.** Hinxton: Philip Lowndes, 2016. The two carved wooden busts interact with the viewers, switching on when people are present, activating the figures which chat with each other. Eyes, jaws, and heads move. Should a viewer get too close to the figures, the people "stop their discussions and turn to stare at the interloper." Heads carved from lime wood, case made of beech with brass components, finished in acrylic. Height 13 ½". Can be operated in "gallery" or "manual" modes. Maker's label affixed to base. Very good working condition.

800/1,200

97. **Shy. Automaton.** Hinxton: Philip Lowndes, 2016. The man, dressed in a coat and tie, is too shy to speak to the lady seated next to him. He turns his head away from her and scratches his nose when she finally looks his way. Finely hand painted. Lime and beechwood construction, with metal and nylon components comprising an eight-cam mechanism. Height 12". Signed maker's label affixed to rear. Very good working condition.

800/1,200

98. **What Goes in Must Come Out. Elephant Automaton.** Hinxton: Philip Lowndes, 2016. The wooden elephant eats endlessly as the crank is turned, "with the inevitable consequence," as the maker's description states. Lime, beech, tiger, birch and boxwood construction, with metal components. Height 10 ¾". Maker's label affixed to base. Very good working condition.

500/700



98



97



99



101



103

99. **Tick Bird Visits the Museum Automaton.** Hinxton: Philip Lowndes, 2015. Wooden automaton with exposed works. As the crank is turned, the bird moves back and forth on the hippopotamus and pecks at the skin. Height 7 ½". Maker's label, numbered 12, affixed to underside.

200/300

ERIC WILLIAMSON & TIMBERKITS

100. **Carpenter Automaton.** Dogaldfan: Eric Williamson, 1983. Finely carved and crafted wooden automaton with two-wheel crank at front, constructed in the form of a carpenter at his workbench, the top covered with saws, hammers, and chisels, the man operating a plane in his hand, moving it back and forth as the wheels are turned. Wood shavings litter the workspace. Finely made clothes and other finely carved details including lines in the carpenter's hands and face. Original printed label affixed with leather cord, signed, numbered, and dated by the artists. Height 14". The only such automaton made by Williamson.

1,000/2,000

101. **Accountant Automaton.** Decatur, GA: Woody Jones, 1988. As the crank is turned, the accountant – phone to his ear, pencil in one hand, the other hand on the keys of an adding machine – furiously scribbles notes as a teetering stack of paperwork threatens to fall on him. Hardwood construction. Height 14 ½". Signed by the maker.

150/250

102. **Dentist Automaton.** Decatur, GA: Woody Jones, 1988. Comic automaton of a dentist standing over his terrified patient who reclines in the examination chair. As the crank is turned, the dentist brandishes a hook in his hand while the patient flinches repeatedly. Hardwood construction. Height 14 ½". Signed and dated by the maker.

150/250

103. **Steve Armstrong Wooden Monks / Solar System Automaton.** [N.p., n.d.]. Wooden multi-tiered automaton with five moving figures: tongues stick in and out of the two monk's faces on the lower tier; a fox chases a pig; the solar system spins; and a monk wrapped around the camshaft spins. Three unmoving monks rest on the platforms, one exposing his buttocks, another reading, the third kneeling at the very top, looking over the action. 22 x 22 x 21". Signed "Steve Armstrong."

400/600

104. **The Artist Formerly Known as Stud Walker.** 2016. Mechanical wooden automaton with exposed works, the artist, holding a paint pallet and brush, moves his arms and looks up and down at the canvas on the easel, as if making a painting of the exotic bird perched on a limb in the corner. 24 x 15 x 8 ½". Near fine.

250/350



102



104



100



105



106



109



111



107



108



110



112

105. Stud Walker "Peaches and the Tiger" Whirlingig / Automaton. Hand-carved wooden whirlingig, the bird flying in circles as the tiger raises and lowers his right paw attempting to catch it. Height 14 1/2". Fine.

100/200

106. Stud Walker "Peaches" Exotic Bird Whirlingig / Automaton. 2016. Cranking the handle causes the bird figure to flap its wings and move its beak and legs. Height 15". Signed on the base.

100/200

107. Stud Walker "The Trouble with Peaches" Automaton. 2016. Cranking the handle causes the birds to fly in circles, as the dog wags its tail and opens and closes its mouth as if barking, and the woman with binoculars looks back and forth between straight ahead and over at the bird on the branch. Height 20". Small area of chipping to tree trunk.

100/200

108. Stud Walker "Audrey" Bricklaying Automaton. 2017. Tattooed bricklayer turns to her left side and removes a brick from the pile, turns back and places it on the wall. Height 15". Signed on the base.

200/300

109. Carlos Zapata "The Gardener" Automaton. 2002. Carved wooden and metal mechanical automaton, depicting a seated mustachioed man pulling a head of lettuce with a rabbit peeking behind a tree (operated by a second crank), and an owl on a tree branch swiveling its head in circles. Working condition. 25 3/4 x 22 3/4 x 12".

400/600

110. Madeleine Mathis "Tweeter Totter" Automaton. Wooden automaton with faux fur-covered birds who totter back and forth as cranked. Height 10".

100/200

111. Johan Scherft Fire-Breathing Dragon Automaton. Finely constructed papercraft dragon viewed through an opening in a mat board, covered with Plexiglas. When the crank is turned, the dragon stands up on its hind legs, extends neck, and spits out fire. Hand-crank and battery operated. 11 x 9 1/4 x 3". Fine.

300/500

112. Laikingland Miniature Lazy Chair Kinetic Object. Contemporary miniature kinetic sculpture, depicting a wooden chair on a cream platform. The chair collapses when the lever is turned, then moments later reforms to its original shape. 6 x 5 x 5". Signed and numbered 11 by the manufacturer on the underside.

200/300



113

KINETIC SCULPTURES

113. **The Waiting Hand Automaton.** Hitchin, UK: Nick Rayburn, ca. 2010. The fingers of the composition hand tap endlessly as the brass crank below the platform on which the hand rests is turned. The exposed brass works provide the mechanism by which the fingers move. Height 6 ½". Near fine.

700/900

114. **Bush Lying Machine. George W. Bush Automaton/Kinetic Sculpture.** Georgia: A. la Torre, ca. 2005. Wooden, metal, acrylic, and fabric coin-operated animatronic sculpture incorporating an electronic mechanism in a wooden cabinet, topped with a wooden bust sculpture of President George W. Bush. The case decorated with patriotic bunting, and the president's head topped with a comical cowboy hat bearing his nickname, "Dubya," in metal lettering on the front of the crown. When a coin is inserted, the wheel of "lies" rotates into the figure's mouth as its nose grows longer and longer, and audio from the handheld game "Bop It!" plays. A knob beside the wheel allows the user to "stop the lies." Approximately 28 x 18 x 11". Sold with a quantity of printed "lies," as issued by the artist. Working.

500/750



114



115



116

115. **Gordon Bradt / Kinetico Sculptures. Lot of Six.** Busch, AR, ca. 1980s. Electric mechanized figures depicting various sports, comprising: runner, baseball batter, skier, fisherman (2), and golfer. On bases retaining Kinetico labels, some bases signed "Bradt." One figure detached from base. All in working condition. Height approx. 8 ½".

200/300

116. **Gordon Bradt Six Man Kinetic Clock.** Busch, AR, ca. 1990s. Handcrafted brazed and molten solid brass electric clock, with mechanized little men working levers and cranks that apparently keep the clock running. Height 9". U.S. penny with brass covering the reverse signed "Bradt." Clock working, one man's coil out of alignment, will require some adjustment.

300/500



117

117. **Dozen Whimsical Wooden Automata / Kinetic Sculptures.** Contemporary wooden automata including a rapping hand, kissing rabbits, cow jumping over the Moon, chess-playing bears, Parrot in Boots (Richard Makin), The Chicken Rider (Harmony Ball Co.), swimming dolphins (Lo Cascio Originals), and others. Tallest 18".

250/350

118. **Arbolé Praxinoscope Viewer and Marbles Automata.** Two items, including a modern version of the classic motion-picture toy (13 x 12 x 7"), with 11 paper strips of various subjects such as dancing, acrobats, and jumping rope; and an automaton causing three marbles work their way up a series of wooden steps and slide down the opposite side. Both beech with hazelnut stain and varnish.

100/200



118



TOYS & PUPPETS



119



120



121

119. German Composition Milking Cow Pull Toy. A late nineteenth century hide-covered cow figure with glass eyes, turning head, reservoir to simulate milking, on wheels. No tail or cover over opening. Length 11".

200/300

120. Wind-Up Somersaulting Bear Toy. Circa early twentieth century. Fur-covered bear with composition feet and hands. When the arms are wound, the bear moves its arms in circles and kicks its legs out, flipping itself over in a backwards somersault. Height 10". Fur soft and clean, slightly matted on the backside.

200/300

121. Wind-Up Monkey Drummer Toy. Fur-covered monkey with hand-painted composition face, felt hat, and tin drum, with wind-up key on the belly causing arms to drum while head nods and feet bounce. Height 10".

200/300

122. Egg-Laying Chicken Toy. Circa late nineteenth century. Drop eggs into the back of the neck, press down on the body, and the chicken begins laying eggs. Papier-mache body and head, covered with real bird feathers, tin mechanism, feet, and legs, on original wooden platform covered with faux grass, drawer with small plastic eggs. Height 8 ¼".

50/100

123. Wind-Up Performing Circus Bear. Key-wound bear with mohair body, muzzled and chained, standing upright, with nodding head and moving arms as entire figure vibrates. Height 8 ½".

300/500



122



123



124



126



128



125



129



130



131



132



133

124. Harlequin Circus Acrobat Musical Automaton.

Possibly by Reuge, depicting a harlequin doll with porcelain face, cotton costume with gilt thread and rhinestones, felt boots and lace cuffs, performing an acrobatic flare by balancing one arm on a platform, extending and retracting the legs and other arm. Music box plays Brahms' "Lullaby." Height 19".

300/500

125. Mr. Fox the Magician Battery-Operated Toy.

Japan: Yonezawa, ca. 1950s. Lithographed tin and fabric figure of a fox who changes objects under a hat. Working condition. Height 9 1/2". Light stains to fabric, unobtrusive scratches.

150/250

126. Trio of ALPS Proud Peacock Wind-Up Toys.

Lithographed tin Japanese toys, one lacking feet, who walk forward and raise and expand their tail feathers. All marked "ALPS." Each 7 x 5 1/2". Working condition.

150/250

127. No lot.

128. Lot of 7 Wind-Up Animal Toys.

Tin toys with fur and fabric bodies, including two bears (Modern Toys; both with Made in Japan/Occupied Japan paper labels); skunk; squirrel with nut; cow (Modern Toys; lacks one eye, fabric losses); barking dog; and Jumping Rabbit with original box.

150/250

129. Group of 9 Sand Acrobat Motion Toys.

Including six postwar acrobats by Shackman (Japan), one depicting a mouse, three in original boxes; and three others of similar size and date. All approx. 7 x 4 1/2 x 2". Condition varies; some not fully functional and losses to paper covers and borders.

250/350

130. Trio of Magician Wind-Up Toys.

Lithographed tin, plastic, and fabric toys, including Fox the Magician (not working; with original box, rips and losses to lid); Trixie Magician Dog (working; changes egg into chicken under top hat with clucking sounds); and boy magician (working; produces and vanishes duckling under hat).

150/250

131. French Jeu De Course Horse Race Games.

Two games, one cased, with six painted lead figures with riders in three lanes, four gates, center coin dish, the case and felt covering worn and soiled (15 x 15 x 7"); and a smaller two-track version with eight horses (10 x 10").

200/300

132. Group of Five Mechanical Cast Iron Banks.

Modern versions of classic cast iron banks, including Funny Clown, Magician, Trick Dog and Clown, Golfer, and Punch and Judy. One by Book of Knowledge, others made in China, Taiwan, or unmarked.

100/200

133. Group of Four Kobe Doll Moving Toy Figures.

Japan, 20th century. Mechanical moving figures, two stamped "Kobe Doll" on the underside, one other with a small red label, each playing a musical instrument.

200/400



134



135



138



140



136



139



141



137

134. **Archer Karakuri Mechanical Doll / Automaton.** Tokyo: Gakken, ca. 2004. Designed during the Edo period (1603-1867), the mechanics that make this recreation Karakuri doll function are precise and complex. The wind-up doll pulls an arrow out of the fan, pulls back the bow, aims, and fires at a target. Complete with custom wooden carrying case. As new (target unassembled).

200/300

135. **Trio of Gakken Karakuri Automata Kits.** Includes two Karakuri Somersault Dolls (both sealed) and Tea-Serving Robot (original box, parts sealed in Styrofoam container within), with catalog and booklet.

200/300

136. **Assortment of Automaton / Mechanical Toy Kits.** Modern kits by Anatoly Zaya-Ruzo (magician), Timber Kits, Ukrainian Gears, Bibby's Models, ARToy, Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, Tinker Crate, and others. All unassembled, presumed complete, some sealed.

200/300

137. **Lot of 14 Wind-Up Music Boxes with Moving Figures.** Including two dancers by Reuge; two dancing clowns; castle with drawbridge; piano player with jewelry box; rodeo cowboy; boat on stormy water (MBSI); Westland dancing couple; copper automobile; Otagiri band trio (violinist not working); and The Blue Bell of Scotland (Japan). All but the automobile with movable parts.

100/200

138. **French Figural Automaton Match Striker Clock.** Circa 1890s. Cast bronze figure of a bearded man in hat, who at a certain hour would bring a lit match up to his hat with his extended arm, the metal strip attached to the match box acting as a striker. Basin in hat holds used matches. Height 9". Very good.

300/500

139. **Didisheim Goldschmidt Fils & Co. Automaton Desk Clock.** Swiss, 20th century. Enamel village scene with hand-painting, the clock incorporated into a steeple, below which Cupid is seated in a shack hammering an anvil. Marble base, beveled glass cover. Overall 4 x 5 x 1 1/2". Lacking one screw to rear of case. Not working.

200/300

140. **Three Vintage Jefferson Golden Hour Mystery Clocks.** Bellwood, IL, ca. 1960s. Electric clocks with gilt bases and hands, glass dials, modeled after Robert-Houdin's famous clocks which kept accurate time despite having no apparent connection to the base. Height 8". Two of three in working condition.

100/200

141. **Lot of Four Singing / Musical Bird Boxes.** Three single and one triple, in brass and other metal cages. Two marked Western Germany, others unmarked. One working (yellow bird with roses hops from perch to perch, music box playing). Tallest 11".

200/400



142



143



144



145

PUPPETS

142. Pelham Puppets Animated Counter Display. England, ca. 1960s. Motorized electric puppet display including figures of Goofy, clown, horse, and pony. Wooden base with felt platforms, fabric canopy, Pelham plaque and logo. Working motor. Height 21". Heavy soiling, some strings need re-attaching, otherwise good.

200/300

143. Three Large Pelham Display Marionettes. England, ca. 1950s. Including a clown with hand-painted composition and wooden head, with shag orange wig, wooden shoes, original checkered trousers, colorful felted vest, bowtie, and felted tuxedo, height 45"; a giraffe; and a unicorn. Each retaining Pelham label on control bars.

200/300

144. Large Disney / Pelham Goofy Display Marionette. England, ca. 1950s. Large and impressive painted wooden marionette in original costume, hand-strung. Height approx. 32". Pelham label to wooden control bar; Walt Disney sticker retained on boot.

100/200

145. Large Mickey and Minnie Mouse Disney / Pelham Display Marionettes. England, ca. 1950s. Painted wooden marionettes in original costumes. Height approx. 22". Pelham labels on wooden control bars, retaining Walt Disney stickers on shoes. Scattered small paint losses, surface soiling and scuffs, but overall attractive vintage condition.

200/300



146



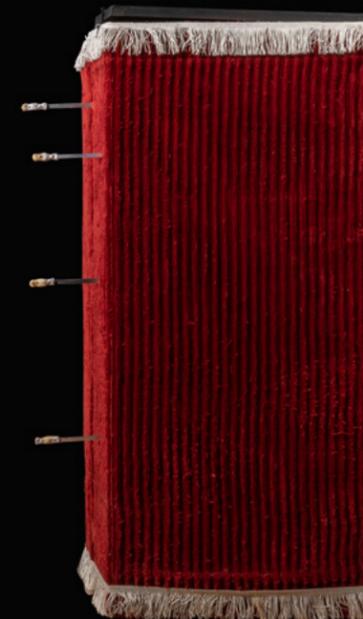
147

146. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Happy Pelham Marionette. England, ca. 1950s. Painted wooden head and hands, original costume and plastic shoes. Stamped by Pelham on the control bars, retaining Disney sticker on shoe. Height 18". Surface scuffs, good overall.

80/125

147. Lot of Pelham Puppets and Other Marionettes. Includes 10 Pelham puppets (Skeleton [2], Goofy, Clown, Mickey Mouse, Charlie Brown, Pluto, Baby Dragon, and Dutch Girls [2]); four rubber hand puppets; Czech Michael Jackson; and Pinocchio (Japan). Seven in original boxes.

100/200



148

148. Fred Cowan "The Great Stiletto" Knife Throwing Circus Puppet. Circa 1970s. Professional knife-throwing marionette outfit, consisting of a marionette puppet, sword basket, and throwing board. Marionette with plaster composition head, articulated mouth, wooden shoes, and bright polyester costume with "Fred Conway Puppets" pinback. In performance, the puppet removes swords from the basket and hurls them one by one at a female assistant standing some distance away in front of the board, taking a bow between each throw. Fine vintage condition. Height of puppet 32", board 38".

1,000/1,500



149. **Marlene Dietrich Large Articulated Marionette.** Professional hand-painted plasticine marionette of the great Hollywood actress, fully articulated mouth, eyes, arms and legs, in a sequined dress and fancy scarf, with rhinestone jewelry and blonde wig. Height 36". Created by puppeteer Ralph Emory.

600/900

150. **Clara Bow Large Articulated Marionette.** Eugene (Eugeni) Seregin, 1999. Professional marionette figure depicting the great Hollywood actress, with moving eyes, and articulated limbs, fingers, and toes, in Hawaiian style outfit. Height 34". With a custom stand (59"), the platform bearing Bow's name in a star resembling the Hollywood Walk of Fame, maker's engraved plaque with date.

1,500/3,000

151. **Bob Dolan / One-Way Puppets Clown Marionette.** Ft. Lauderdale, FL, ca. 1990s. Large clown marionette with plush body, foam face and hands, with colorful patchwork trousers and suspenders, pink hair, and colorful clothing. Height 30". Retaining maker's label on control bars.

100/150

152. **Russian / Eastern European Marionette.** Czech [?], contemporary. Large marionette with hand-painted composition face, articulated mouth, heavily bearded and costumed in a angora-polyester blend robe. Height 33".

100/200

153. **Maher Ventriloquist Dummy Figure.** Littleton, CO, 1990s. Curly black hair, freckles, and brown eyes, dressed in a vest, bowtie, red pants and sneakers. Moving eyes, mouth, and eyelids. Length 32". In a foam-padded traveling case, with a copy of the manufacturer's 1992 catalog. Clothes stained, otherwise fine.

400/600

154. **Scott Land Balloon-Blowing Clown Marionette.** Contemporary professional painted wooden puppet with polychromed eyes, polyester clown suit, shaggy orange hair, the bottom of the shoes with felted black covering. Articulated ankles, wrists, and neck. As performed by Land, the clown appears on stage with the balloon, blows it up, floats away, and sits on the balloon before it pops and the clown walks away dejectedly. Height 30". Drawstring carrying bag. Accompanied by a Scott Land signed photo, inscribed to the consignor, and a business card.

1,000/2,000

END OF SALE

Shipping Terms - By Potter & Potter. Choice of packing and shipping method is strictly at the discretion of Potter and Potter Auctions. P&P generally provides in house shipping via FedEx or USPS to winning bidders.

Please allow 3–4 weeks for delivery.

Third-party shipping. Certain large, high-value, and fragile items will require the services of professional packing and transportation, or pick-up directly from our gallery. We suggest that you contact our Shipping Department before the sale for advice on the shipping and handling requirements that apply to the lots of interest to you.

If third-party shipping is chosen by the buyer or required by Potter & Potter, the buyer will arrange for removal of the merchandise from P&P within 15 days following the sale and must communicate and coordinate removal arrangements with P&P during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Arrangements for third-party transportation are the responsibility of the buyer. We will not be responsible for the acts or omissions of carriers and packers whether recommended or not by us. Property will not be released to the shipper without the buyer's written consent and until payment has been made in full. Unless otherwise agreed, all purchases should be removed by the 15th day following the sale.

Risk of loss or damage in shipment. Any risk of loss or damage to the shipment through a third party carrier, once the item is removed from Potter and Potter, is at the risk of the buyer, and Potter & Potter is not liable for loss or damage of these items.

Ship to address. The winning bidder is responsible for providing Potter & Potter with an accurate address for the order destination as well as specific instructions for delivery.

Shipping costs. Shipping costs include charges for labor, materials, insurance, as well as actual shipper's fees. Buyer agrees to reimburse Potter & Potter the difference if actual shipper's fees exceed the invoice amount.

Storage fees. Potter & Potter will charge a storage fee of \$50 per week for any orders awaiting payment and/or removal for more than 15 days following the auction date. This cost shall constitute a lien against such property, which may be removed to a public warehouse at the risk, account, and expense of the purchaser.

International shipping. Potter and Potter ships internationally. All shipments will include an itemized invoice with the actual and correct purchase totals including the buyer's premium and shipping cost. International buyers are responsible for knowing their country's laws on importing items as well as paying all customs and duties fees on purchased items.

Non-Payment – If we do not receive payment in full, in good cleared funds, within seven (7) business days following the sale, we are entitled in our absolute discretion to exercise one or more of the following measures, in addition to any additional actions available to us by law: (1) to impose a late charge of one and a half percent (1.5%) per thirty (30) days of the total purchase price, prorated to commence on the date of the sale; (2) to hold the defaulting buyer liable for the total amount due and to begin legal proceedings for its recovery together with interest, legal fees and costs to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law; (3) to rescind the sale; (4) to resell the property publicly or privately with such terms as we find appropriate; (5) to resell the property at public auction without reserve, and with the purchaser liable for any deficiency, cost, including handling charges, the expenses of both sales, our commission on both sales at our regular rate, all other charges due hereunder and incidental damages. In addition, a defaulting purchaser will be deemed to have granted us a security interest in, and we may retain as collateral security for such purchaser's obligations to us, any property in our possession owned by such purchaser. At our option, payment will not be deemed to have been made in full until we have collected funds represented by checks, or in the case of bank or cashier's checks, we have confirmed their authenticity; (6) to offset against any amount owed; (7) to not allow any bids at any upcoming auction by or on behalf of the buyer; (8) to take other action as we find necessary or appropriate.

LIABILITY

Condition Reports – Potter and Potter Auctions, Inc. is not responsible for the correctness of any statement of any kind concerning any lot, whether written or oral, nor for any other errors or omissions in description or for any faults or defects in any lot. Neither the seller, ourselves, our officers, employees or agents, give any representation, warranty or guarantee or assume any liability of any kind in respect of

any lot with regard to merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, description, size, quality, completeness, condition, attribution, authenticity, rarity, importance, medium, provenance, prior ownership history, or historical relevance. Except as required by local law any warranty of any kind whatsoever is excluded by this paragraph.

Purchased Lots – If for any reason a purchased lot cannot be delivered in the same condition as at the time of sale, or should any purchased lot be stolen, mis-delivered or lost prior to delivery, Potter and Potter Auctions, Inc. shall not be liable for any amount in excess of that paid by the purchaser.

Legal Ramifications – The rights and obligations of the parties with respect to these Conditions of Sale, the conduct of the auction and any matters connected with any of the foregoing shall be governed and interpreted by the laws of the jurisdiction in Illinois. If any part of these Conditions of Sale is found by any court to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, that part shall be discounted and the rest of the conditions shall continue to be valid to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Discretion - Any and all of the conditions may be waived or modified in the sole discretion of Potter and Potter Auctions, Inc.

Potter and Potter offers historically significant items which may include culturally insensitive material, including but not limited to racist and sexist content. The content and form of such items does not reflect the views or values of the auctioneers or staff.

Potter & Potter Auctions, Inc.
(Illinois Lic. # 444.000388)
3759 N. Ravenswood Ave. Ste. 121
Chicago, IL 60613

Phone: (773) 472-1442
Fax: (773) 260-1462
www.potterauctions.com
info@potterauctions.com

Sami Fajuri, Managing Auctioneer
Lic. #441.001540

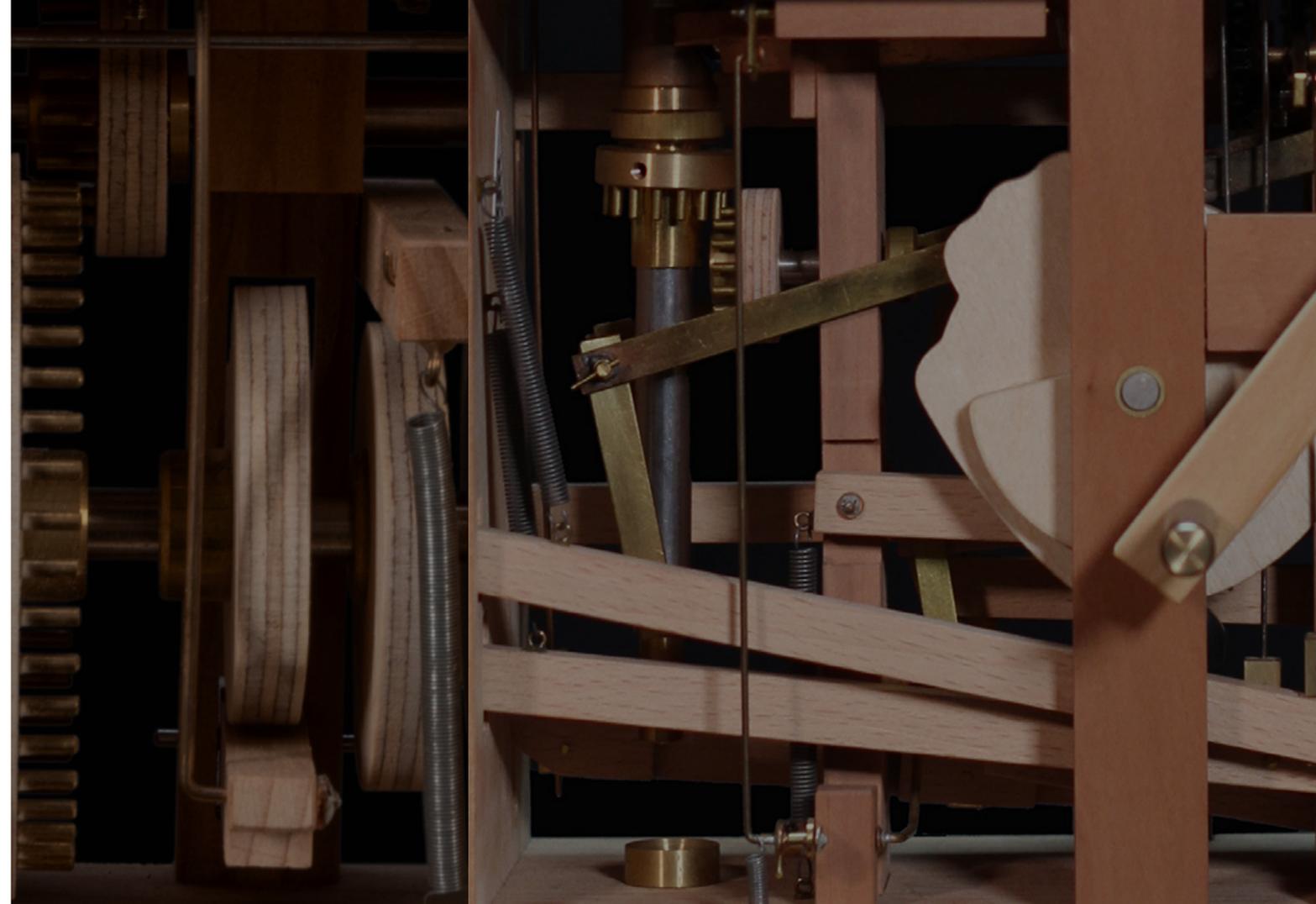
Text: Gabe Fajuri and Joe Slabaugh
Layout: Stina Henslee
Photography: Shelby Ragsdale & Jonathan Hickman

Note: Many supplemental and detailed images of auction lots ~ not shown in the pages of this catalog ~ are available online at Liveauctioneers.com, or directly from Potter & Potter.

Potter & Potter wishes to thank Preston Evans, Jonathan Hickman, and Michael Kam for their assistance in the preparation of this catalog.

Contents copyright © 2019 by Potter & Potter Auctions, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the copyright holders.





POTTER & POTTER AUCTIONS, INC.
WWW.POTTERAUCTIONS.COM