

**For Immediate Release**

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**AN ARMY OF ALIENS DESCEND ON CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON THIS AUTUMN**



**Thursday 17 November 2005, 10.30am & 2pm**  
**The Paul Lips Robot and Space Toy Collection**

**South Kensington** - One of the largest collections of toy robots and space toys to appear at auction will be offered at Christie's South Kensington on Thursday 17 November 2005. The Paul Lips Collection features over 700 lots and is expected to fetch in excess of £200,000. The third major private toy collection to be auctioned at Christie's this autumn, the sale showcases the dedication and passion of antique toy dealer Paul Lips, who has collected the mechanical models over fifteen years.

This diverse collection features early models from the 1940s through to the 1970s, including battery powered robots, clockwork robots, flying saucers, space-ships, space-dogs, satellites and many other items of space toy memorabilia. The toys provide a fascinating insight into the history of space travel, as well as giving collectors a fantastic opportunity to pick up a rare treat. There are numerous examples of the most famous of all robots; *Robby* from the 1956 cult sci-fi classic, *The Forbidden Planet*, which starred a young Leslie Nielsen (individual estimates range from £800 to £8,000). The collection boasts many variations of these rarer models with subtle differences in colour, function of dimension, such as Lips' pride and joy; four from the exceptionally rare *Masudaya "Gang of Five Robots"* (estimate in the region of £15,000). There are also some exceptionally rare pieces such as the *Robot War Boat* of which Lips is thought to own the only original box in existence (estimate: £5,000–8,000).

Paul Lips' fascination with collecting toys began when he acquired a rare and sought-after *Robby Space Patrol* by TN Nomura of Japan through his own business (estimate: £5,000–8,000). This is a highly sought item having been produced for a limited period only and then withdrawn due to licensing problems. Lips took the model home and it was soon joined by an army of other

robots. Through purchasing entire collections from seasoned and retiring collectors, as well as from European and U.S. toy fairs, Lips was able to constantly refine his robot collection.

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*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

**Notes to Editors:**

**The Toy season continues over the Christmas period with the following sales:**

- Thursday 1 December: The Philip Dean 'Civilians' Figure Collection
- Tuesday 13 December: Teddy Bears
- Sunday 18 December: Trains Galore

**Viewing times for The Paul Lips Robot and Space Toy Collection:**

Monday 14 November	5pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 15 November	9am – 5pm
Wednesday 16 November	9am – 5pm
Thursday 17 November	9am – start of sale

Christie's South Kensington toy sales include traditional toys such as cars, trains and soldiers, as well as more commercial items, such as puppets from *Thunderbirds* and James Bond memorabilia. In 1997 a collection of Toy soldiers from the Forbes Museum (Tangier) sold for £550,000, making it the most expensive collection of toy soldiers ever sold. More recently the *Gardiner Märklin Gauge V* spirit-fired steam passenger train from around 1906 sold for £113,750 – the world record for a toy train and the most expensive single toy ever auctioned in Europe. In 2005 there are eight toy sales at Christie's South Kensington.