

For Immediate Release
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FAB TOYS

Toys
Thursday 8 May at 10.30am & 2pm
Fine Dolls, Dolls' Houses and Automata
Tuesday 20 May at 11am & 1pm



John Tracy puppet from the Thunderbirds TV Series
Estimate: Head £3,000-5,000; costume £1,000-1,500

South Kensington – The first Christie's Toys, Dolls and Mechanical Music sale of the year takes place over two days in May. On Thursday 8 May the Toy auction features a plethora of fine toys and TV characters that will rekindle childhood memories across the generations; and on Tuesday 20 May, the Fine Dolls, Dolls' Houses and Automata sale features delightful dolls, fascinating automata and slot machines. Combined, the two auctions feature over 500 lots and are expected to realize in excess of £350,000.

Rescued from destruction in the late 1960s, a previously unknown treasure trove of original Thunderbirds material is a definitive highlight of the 8 May sale. This important collection includes the heads of John and Virgil Tracy, their manservant Kyrano and a selection of blue International Rescue caps, all from the popular original TV series. Five other finely-detailed production heads also feature, along with beautifully detailed costumes from the series and the feature film Thunderbirds Are Go - the body and uniform of a ZERO-X pilot from the film is a particularly eye-catching puppet. In total this FAB cache may fetch as much as £15,000. Amazingly it was discovered by the vendor's grandfather over 30 years ago as it was heading for the rubbish dump shortly after Thunderbirds production ceased.

The sale also features a fine European array of over 5,000 toy soldiers accompanied by military vehicles, featuring Elastolin, Lineol and Heyde. Other highlights include a large Italian collection of ingenious and colourful Lehmann novelty toys, a magnificent 1880s 3.5 inch gauge locomotive and vintage Dinky and Corgi cars.

A beautiful and rare A.Thullier bébé, circa 1880, leads the Fine Dolls, Dolls' House and Automata sale on 20 May. An early French doll, this bébé is estimated at £12,000-15,000. Other doll highlights include a fine Jumeau bébé in original pink outfit (estimate £2,500-£3,500), a 19th century 'There was an Old Lady that lived in a Shoe' with bisque headed woman, Grodnertal and composition children (estimate £800-1,200), a rare large Lines Bros. dolls house with working bath (estimate £2,000-3,000) and an Ideal composition Shirley Temple doll in original box (estimate £400-600).

Automata highlights include a rare Rouillet et Decamps Butterfly Catcher with a Jumeau portrait head. Estimated at £10,000-15,000, this charming automaton moves her head and hands to catch a butterfly in a net whilst a yapping dog emerges from her milk churn she carries. The sale also features a collection of 19th century slot machines.

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*Images available on request
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