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For Immediate Release

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TOY STORIES: TERRIFIC TOYS AND DARLING DOLLS AT CHRISTIE'S



Distler clockwork limousine (estimate: £1,000-1,500)



Brown Bru Béb  (estimate : £18,000-22,000)

Fine Toys - 26 October 2004

Dolls and Dolls' Houses - 27 October 2004

London – Christie's South Kensington is pleased to announce its sales of Fine Toys and Dolls and Dolls' Houses on 26 and 27 October 2004. Collectors can look forward to two superb sales, each comprising an array of rare and beautiful toys and dolls. From toy cars to Thunderbirds puppets, and dolls houses to miniature opera stars, each of the sales has something unique to offer.

The Fine Toys sale boasts a collection of tin-plate toys, and with estimates ranging from £500 to £3,000 there is something to suit all budgets. A particular highlight is a group of Napoleonic toy soldiers, commemorating Napoleon's coronation as Emperor in 1804. The highlight of this European collection of French-made toys is a group of officers made by the French manufacturer Vertunni (estimate: £500-800).

Thunderbirds fans will be tempted by two production heads, one of 'Carter', a flight attendant on Skyship One, from the feature film 'Thunderbirds 6', premiered 1968 and a second of 'Slim', from the Thunderbirds television episode, 'Martian Invasion', first broadcast in 1966 (estimate: £1,500-2,000 each). Also offered are scripts from Thunderbirds and Stingray (estimate: £500-800 each). A further puppet-treat is an original Gordon

Murray production puppet of 'Dr. Mopp' from Camberwick Green, one of only two-known ones still in existence (estimate: £1,000-1,500).

A more traditional classic toy highlight is a Distler clockwork six-light limousine, presented in its original box. Made in the 1920s, this is a beautifully-crafted piece, ideal for car lovers, young and old (estimate: £1,000-1,500).

The Dolls sale features a childhood doll collection belonging to a Parisian child, Maris Madelaine Piat (1872-1959) is a rare group of carefully preserved dolls including the top lot in the sale, a rare Brown Bru Béb , wearing traditional Turkish costume, dating from the 1880s, estimate: £18,000-22,000. The collection as a whole is expected to make £30,000-40,000.

A rare and exciting highlight in this large sale is a china-headed doll, made to resemble the world famous opera singer Adelina Patti (1843-1919) who was the highest paid star of the 19th century, once earning a huge £5,000 for a single performance. The doll comes with 5 different outfits of clothes exactly like outfits worn by the diva herself in operas such as the Barber of Seville and Don Giovanni (estimate: £3,000-5,000).

Another of the top lots in the sale is an early almond-eye Jumeau B b , which is 25 inches high and estimated at £12,000-15,000. Further highlights include a large painted wooden Noah's Ark complete with 238 animals along with Noah and his family (estimate : £4,000-6,000) and a number of beautiful dolls' houses including the superb Hinwick Baby House with furniture (estimate : £6,000-8,000)

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*Images available on request
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