

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Cambridge, Ohio)

An amazing variety of quality dolls from nearly every era attracted collectors across the country and beyond as McMasters Harris held their Spring Doll Auction on April 26, 2008. The location was their gallery in Cambridge, Ohio, on the Internet at www.MHarrisLive.com and on eBay Live Auctions.

The auction was well attended as buyers were encouraged to bid via live gallery, live Internet, absentee or by phone. Bidding was spirited and sustained throughout the day, as many hammer prices climbed well above pre-auction estimates.

As is the norm for a McMasters Harris Auction, variety and quality were the attractions – fine antique French and German bisque dolls, very early wood and cloth, English poured wax, plus vintage composition, celluloid and hard plastic, as well as the most popular modern artist dolls.

A petite 13" Rabery & Delphieu French bebe circa 1880, with original human hair wig, sold for \$3100, slightly above her pre-auction estimate. A 13" early Kestner shoulder head doll with an exceptional antique silk outfit was won for \$480, while two other early Kestners, a 30" 214 and 34" 196, sold for \$465 and \$430, respectively.

Door of Hope mission dolls proved popular with collectors. An 11" bride with carved arms and hands brought \$1010, while her 12" groom, with deep plum costume, sold for \$1200, well above his pre-auction estimate. Two smaller Kimport Door of Hope dolls ended bidding at \$660 and \$440, respectively.

A 27" English poured wax shoulder head girl attributed to Montanari circa 1850, with original cloth body, climbed to a high bid of \$2585, near the high end of its pre-auction estimate.

The undisputed highlight of the day came in the form of an unassuming 13" cloth doll with painted features. A few sharp-eyed collectors recognized an extremely rare Maggie Bessie doll made in Salem, North Carolina between 1880 and 1930. Spirited bidding, particularly between the onsite gallery and one overseas phone bidder, ended with the coveted doll going home with a determined gallery bidder for \$8800.

Despite their numbers, popular dolls and animals by modern artist R. John Wright held their value throughout the auction. A limited edition 16" Snow White was won for \$540 against a \$300-400 estimate, by the same Internet bidder who claimed all seven separately auctioned dwarfs. Another R. John Wright favorite, The Little Prince, changed hands for \$720, while a signed example of The Enchanted Doll went for \$325, within the pre-auction estimate.

More evidence of the interesting variety offered at this auction included an early composition Tonto ("The Lone Ranger's Pal") circa 1938 that brought \$255; a 9" early creche figure that was won for \$550; a 15" closed-mouth Belton type child sold for \$1100, the top of her pre-auction estimate; a 16" Frozen Charlie, a deep pink tint on his well-modeled face, that surpassed his \$400-600 pre-auction estimate by ending bidding at \$720.

Three early Kathe Kruse dolls were offered, the favorite among them a 16" likely all original Doll I that sold for \$3300.

These wonderful dolls plus many more – the entire Spring Doll Auction online catalog with prices realized – can be viewed at www.MHarrisLive.com. Collectors and potential sellers are encouraged to contact McMasters Harris Auction Co., P.O. Box 1755, Cambridge, OH, 43725 or call 800.842.3526. Visit online at www.mcmastersharris.com.

McMasters Harris is accepting limited additional consignments for their June 17th Barbie & Friends Auction, which will feature a fine collection of vintage Barbie dolls, clothing and accessories. Contact Mark@mcmastersharris.com or call him at 800.842.3526.

Prices quoted include buyer's premium of 10% for gallery purchases, 15% for MHarrisLive Internet purchases, and 20% for eBay Live purchases.