

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Columbus, Ohio
February 3, 2010

Hundreds of beautiful and rare vintage Barbies, including #1, #2 and #3 ponytail Barbies, as well as many hard-to-find outfits and rare early accessories, were featured as McMasters Harris Auction Co. presented their "Barbie and Me . . . BFF*" doll auction on January 2, 2010.

The location was the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus, Ohio. Buyers were encouraged to place bids via live Internet, absentee and in the gallery at this well-attended auction filled with enthusiastic Barbie collectors.

Early Barbies were highly regarded, as bids for fine examples in original outfits drew spirited bidding. Four #1 ponytail Barbies were highlights. A one-owner #1, wearing original swimsuit, shoes and sunglasses and sporting her original box, offered the added bonus of an endearing letter from her "mother". This doll was won for \$5875 by an anonymous Internet bidder who plans to donate the doll to a children's museum on the east coast. Three more #1 Barbies sold for \$5875, \$4070 and \$2860, respectively. A blonde #2 ponytail Barbie went for \$2465.

A gorgeous ash blonde American Girl side-part Barbie in original swimsuit caught the eye of collectors and eventually sold for \$1175. A long-haired American Girl ended bidding at \$470. A lovely Lemon Swirl Barbie in her original box w/unopened accessories traded hands for \$450. A TNT Barbie in her sealed original box went for \$560.

Several #3 ponytails attracted considerable interest. Two blonde #3 Barbies, one wearing *Benefit Performance* and the other wearing *Campus Sweetheart*, brought \$645, as did two others in their original swimsuits. A blonde #3 wearing *Outdoor Art Show*, sold for \$590.

Color Magic Barbies were plentiful and popular. A Color Magic Barbie with both A and B "Color Magic Changer Packets" sold for \$440; two others changed hands for \$675 and \$470.

Friends and family proved popular, as well. Several near mint Francies, in particular, were in high demand. A pristine blonde TNT no-bangs Francie in her rare original outfit was won for \$940; a similar no-bangs Francie sold for \$645. A twist-n-turn black Francie circa 1968 was hammered down for \$1528.

A TNT Stacey in Sears exclusive *Weekenders* sold for \$410, while Stacey in Sears exclusive *Stripes Are Happenin'* brought \$325. Julia, wearing *Brrr-Furrr* from 1969 went to a new home for \$205.

Collectors appreciated complete outfits in excellent condition. #1678 *Pan American Airways Stewardess*, from 1966, brought a strong \$645, while *Glimmer Glamour*, always sought after in near mint condition, sold for \$590. Complete Ken in Switzerland outfit in the original box went for \$175, as did #1959 *Warm & Wonderful Skipper* outfit from 1968 and #1468 *Special Sparkle* Barbie outfit from 1970.

McMasters Harris is accepting consignments for upcoming spring and summer doll auctions. Collectors and sellers are encouraged to contact Mark Harris by calling 800-842-3526 or emailing mark@mcmastersharris.com. Visit us online at www.mcmastersharris.com.

Prices quoted include buyer's premium of 14.5% for gallery purchases (discounted 2.5% for cash or check) and 17.5% for absentee (including Internet) purchases.

*Best Friends Forever