

(Columbus, Ohio)
August 14, 2009

A vast and wonderfully diverse collection of antique dolls, bears, toys, games and furniture drew collectors and dealers alike to Columbus, Ohio on July 25th, 2009, as McMasters Harris Auction Co. presented their mid-summer Gateway to the West Antique Doll & Toy Auction. The location was the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus and on the Internet.

This auction featured the lifetime collection of Audrey Femmer of Webster Groves, Missouri, plus a selection of fine dolls from New York City and other East Coast collections.

Mrs. Femmer was a passionate collector who filled her home with antique treasures of all kinds. She had a special love of all things doll and child-related, as was evident by countless over-filled tables at the well-attended, lively two-ring auction.

Fine antique French bisque dolls were en vogue throughout the day. A beautiful early 17" Portrait Jumeau with softly tinted bisque sold for \$13,750, within the pre-auction estimate, as did a gorgeous 29" Jumeau Triste. An 18" open mouth Tete Jumeau with original wig and antique clothing sold for \$1980, the high end of the pre-auction estimate of \$1500-2100. An incredible, all original 15" S.F.B.J. 301 bebe in her Au Nain Bleu trunk with extra outfits and accessories soared to a high bid of \$7260, going home with a very happy bidder in the gallery.

Other French dolls of interest included several desirable bisque Bleuette bebes with original Gauthier-Languereau outfits. An early S.F.B.J. 60 Bleuette with vintage dress and G-L jardinière sold for \$2070, while a Unis France 60 Bleuette wearing an outfit made from a pattern in "La Semaine de Suzette" went for \$1495. A Unis France 301 Bleuette in original G-L First Communion costume circa 1931 was won for \$1150.

German characters were also highly favored by collectors. A 13" Simon & Halbig 1329 Oriental lady on a composition body with beautiful original finish and original costume closed bidding at \$1100, well over the pre-auction estimate of \$600-800. A 24" Dora Petzoldt German composition head doll was won for \$1955, more than four times the pre-auction estimate.

A rare 8 ½" Ernst Heubach 459 Island Toddler circa 1930 reached a high bid of \$1150, several times the pre-auction estimate, while an 18" Simon & Halbig, Kammer & Rheinhardt 117 character, one of the Mein Liebling series of dolls circa 1911, commanded \$2530.

Early cloth dolls were favored by enthusiastic collectors. A 33" American painted cloth "Columbia Type" circa 1895 sold for \$805. An "as new" Martha Chase lady in her original labeled box went for \$1495, while a much larger 25" wigged Chase girl sold for \$805 and a tiny 13" Chase girl sold for \$990.

An adorable, all original 14" Kleines Du Mein by Kathe Kruse ended spirited bidding at \$3565. 10" Steiff Brother and Sister felt dolls with needle-sculpted faces climbed to a high bid of \$1210. A pair of early, well-loved Volland Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls went to a new home for \$490.

Other items of interest in this varied auction included a tiny 10" German china head little girl with "Alice" hairstyle and snood that sold for \$460, well over her pre-auction estimate of \$200-300. A Door of Hope Rice Farmer circa 1930 changed hands for \$690, while a seldom seen Door of Hope Policeman sold for \$1380.

A 15" early wooden Schoenhut boy in original costume sold for \$1210. A tiny 3 ½" fully jointed Schuco mohair monkey that doubles as a lipstick tube sold for \$490.

Prices quoted include buyer's premium of 10% for gallery purchases and 15% for online and absentee purchases. Potential sellers are encouraged to contact Mark Harris at 740-297-0318 or email him at mark@mcmastersharris.com. Visit us online at www.mcmastersharris.com.