

Many Wonderful Things

Theriault's recently held a two-part sale in New York City for the collection of Candy Spelling. The first part of the sale, held November 19, 2011, featured a superb collection of 19th century antique French dolls and automata, including works by Vichy, Theroude, Lambert, and Rouillet et Decamps.



\$24,000

Rare and luxurious French musical automaton "Bebe Piano" by Leopold Lambert, c. 1885, 20 inches tall. When wound, she glides her fingers across the keys, pauses, "plays," while turning her head in a realistic manner as though in time to the music. Marks: Depose E. 6 J (doll). The original paper tune label on the back lists four tunes: Marche des Volontaires, Si L'Amour sur ma Route, Valse #1, and Je Ne Veux Pas. Presale estimate: \$12,000/\$17,000.



\$19,000

Italian Felt "Sam," model 260, by Lenci with brilliant costume and body variation, 36 inches tall. Marks: Lenci (two original paper labels, one pencil noted "260"). A standing version of the same model appeared in the 1924 catalog, also identified as model 260, and named "Sam," described as "The Sultan's Moorish Guard;" Presale estimate: \$9,000/\$13,000.



\$29,000

French gilt bronze automaton "Mandarin Magician" by J.F. Houdin with 16 surprises, 9 inches tall, c. 1836. Music and movements are wound separately, and the music can be elected to play alternate tunes, repeat, or can be played separately without the movements. When wound, the Mandarin nods his head, and in a series of movements lifts both magic domes atop his table or only one; meanwhile the secrets under the domes are alternately revealed: cups, dice, cones and such, or, sometimes, nothing. The table cover can be removed by two screws at the back to reveal the spring barrel automaton movement. The automaton is resting upon an inlay rose-wood base which contains the music box. The automaton originally rested atop a bronze clock, but here, instead, the automaton is resting atop the inlaid musical base. Presale estimate: \$18,000/\$27,000.



\$28,000

A French bisque bébé by Schmitt et Fils of outstanding beauty, 26 inches tall, c. 1882. Marks: Sch (in shield, on head and derriere); 6 (raised number, head). Presale estimate: \$12,000/\$15,000.



\$135,000

Important German bisque art character doll, 106, by Kammer and Reinhardt, c. 1909, 21 inches tall. Marks: K*R 106 53. From their art character reform series introduced in 1908 with the goal of presenting dolls representing realistic faces and expressions of children. The sculptor of three of the art character dolls, models, 100, 102, and 107, has been known to be the renowned German artist, Arthur Lewin-Funcke based upon comparison to two of his known sculptures. It is now also believed that this very doll, the model 106, was also created by his hand, based upon close resemblance to the medallion bust that he sculpted of his son, Andreas. Presale estimate: \$120,000/\$160,000.



\$75,000

The fabulous French musical automaton "Clown Musicians on Stage" by Vichy, 30 inches tall, c. 1910. Two vivacious papier-mâché clowns are posed upon a wooden stage with red velvet draperies and five front steps, ready to begin their performance. When wound, they begin their performance: turning their heads from side-to-side, blinking their eyes, and side-stepping in unison while strumming their instruments. Suddenly, the sullen clown, in an apparent attack of jealousy, attempts to kick the cheerful clown off the stage. The cheerful clown is blissfully indifferent, and just turns in the other direction and kicks out of sequence. Music accompanies their performance and a large Vichy-style motor drives the movements from six cams. Presale estimate: \$55,000/\$75,000.

To the Manor Born

The second part of the sale, held November 20, featured an extraordinary collection of historical, portrait, fashionable, and child dolls from Madame Alexander from the golden era of the 1950s and assembled by Los Angeles luminary, Candy Spelling.

Theriault's, www.theriaults.com.



\$18,000

The Agatha portrait from "Me and My Shadow" Series of 1954, 18 inches tall, 18" (46cm.) All hard plastic with socket head and five-piece walking style body, blue/green sleep eyes, lashes, red lips, brunette hair with curly bangs and captured curls at her nape. She is wearing her soft rose iridescent faille taffeta with faux-jacket bodice trimmed with blue, fuchsia, and green braid that is repeated on her back bustle and extended train; the sleeves are of splendid ruffled tulle, and her woven bonnet is decorated with wide rose ribbon to match the gown and a nosegay of flowers; she holds a matching parasol, and has tulle-edged taffeta petticoat and panties, and purple suede flat shoes. Presale estimate: \$1,500/\$2,100.



\$11,000

Outstanding and extremely rare "Deborah Ballerina" Portrait Doll, c. 1951, 21 inches tall. All hard plastic with socket head and five-piece body, grey/green eyes with lush diagonally-cut elongated lashes, hand-painted eye brows and lower lashes, very full hand-painted lips, burgundy-brown wig in elaborate coiffure waved away from her face and captured in a rhinestone-accented black snood. She is wearing a white lace and satin tutu with dart-shaped bodice, tulle neckline and shoulder guards, multi-layered tulle skirt overlaid with fine Alencon lace and trimmed with imbedded rhinestones and bouquets of colorful silk flowers that are repeated at her throat. Presale estimate: \$2,000/\$3,000.



\$11,000

Superb and rare "Rachel" from Biblical Series, c. 1954, 8 inches tall. All hard plastic with socket head, five-piece walking style body, dark sleep eyes, real lashes, painted lower lashes, rosy cheeks, red lips, very dark brunette hair with bangs and braids. She is wearing a red cotton tunic gown with navy blue edging and gold braid, with blue, ivory and gold woven sash, blue metal appliques at the yoke, peach cotton petticoat and panties, black tie shoes, wide green headband with colorfully-embroidered flowers, metal appliques, unusual intricate pearl crown and long green organdy veil. Presale estimate: \$2,000/\$3,000.



\$12,000

Godey Lady in Golden Taffeta Dress, c. 1952, 14 inches tall. All hard plastic with socket head, five piece body, blue sleep eyes, lashes, closed mouth with rich red lips, light brown floss hair with center part and coiled curls at each side of face held by original pale blue ribbons. She is wearing a vibrant orange/golden taffeta dress with fitted bodice trimmed with cream tatting that is repeated on the sleeves, pleated skirt ruffles, sous-sleeves, slip and pantalets with cut-work edging, stockings, black snap shoes with little bows, embossed brass necklace. Presale estimate: \$1,100/\$1,500.



\$3,800

Very rare "Fashions of a Century" Lady, c. 1954, 18 inches tall. All hard plastic with socket head and five-piece body, blue sleep eyes, lashes, eye shadow, painted lower lashes, unusual double-stroke brows, red lips, blonde hair in elaborately-arranged side coils trimmed with flowers, and arranged coil at nape. She is wearing fashionable gown featuring a black velvet bodice over peach taffeta skirt trimmed with black lace, floral spray at waist, taffeta petticoat, panties, gold shoes, "diamond" ring, gold prism necklace. Presale estimate: \$1,100/\$1,500.

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