

**THE MAGNIFICENT RON MCCRINDELL TOY AND TRAIN COLLECTION
100 % SOLD AT SPECIAL AUCTION SERVICES ON 20 APRIL 2012**



By Neil Shuttleworth, Special Auction Services

Ron McCrindell, one of the great pioneer UK toy collectors, died in August 2011 aged 91. Starting soon after World War II, he was an early collector of fine Märklin and Bing boats and also formed a magnificent collection of Gauge I and 0 Gauge railways by Märklin, Carette, Bing, Bassett-Lowke and Hornby as well as fine tinsplate motor cars, novelty toys and stationary engines.

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This magnificent collection was consigned to Special Auction Services in Newbury, helping to cement their reputation as leading auctioneers of fine toys, trains and figures, the latest in a series of many notable toy sales held by the firm. The sale was presented in a lavish full-colour catalogue and comprised more than 300 lots. It was met with unprecedented pre-sale excitement, with interest from around the world and a house record for the number of telephone lines booked. On the day, the saleroom was packed and the internet buzzed with buyers - as anticipated, the Märklin battleship HMS 'Terrible' was the star of the show, realising £76,000, a British auction record for a toy. Another Märklin vessel, the impressive ocean liner 'Carmania', sold for £24,000, making an impressive pair at a round £100,000. Highlights in other categories included a Huntley & Palmer biscuit tin Omnibus at £3,200, a Doll Portable Steam Engine at £2,600, a Bing 60cm Torpedo Boat at £3,800, a French-market Märklin Station sold for £5,000 and a Bing for Bassett-Lowke Gauge I Lancashire & Yorkshire Locomotive and Tender made £4,600. All in all, the total was close to £300,000.

These amazing results struck a happy chord with the media and news of the mighty battleship was reported by the BBC, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail and The Sun, amongst others, even spreading overseas. It was all a great tribute to a fine man and a shrewd and passionate collector.

Hugo Marsh, head of the toy department at Special Auction Services, said: "I had known Ron for many years, and have always, along with many others, admired his collection. It has been a real privilege to catalogue and sell this impressive array of boats, toys, trains and figures.

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