

Breker

Reprint from:



AUCTION TEAM

For nearly twenty-five years, Cologne-based Auction Team Breker has been involved in all manner of technical antiques, and has firmly established itself as the No. 1 in this field worldwide. The field of technical antiques gathers together the tools of nearly all the professions, including scientific instruments, classical medical and pharmaceutical technology such as microscopes, surgical instruments, ophthalmic devices, early apothecary jars and scales to complete apothecary shops. Another specialty is the techno-historical development of the office, from the early 19th century to the high-tech products that have developed since the 1950s.

The captivating mechanical music instruments, offered by Breker in twice-yearly specialist sales in the Spring and Autumn, are a particular high-point. They range all the way from early 18th century flute clocks to the sophisticated cylinder musical boxes of the 1850 to the disc musical boxes developed in the 1880s, from Thomas Edison's cylinder phonographs and record players to the valuable pneumatic instruments such as the barrel organs, and piano orchestrions of the 1920s. Breker offers other specialist sales as well, for example the popular "Photographica & Film" with its broad sweep through the 170-year-old history of photography and the 110 years of international film-making. Four truly worldwide auctions are held each year at the Cologne auction house, in March, May, September and November, combining



Polyphon "Auto-Changer", c. 1900, sold for € 22,600.

1907 Edison Idelia Phonograph, sold for a record price of € 31,820.

Life-sized Fairground "Hercules" Strength-Tester, c. 1928, sold for € 11,400.

Very rare 1879 figural "Buddha" Magic Lantern, sold for € 6,500.



Important Original Camera by Nicéphore Niépce, pre-dating 1825, sold for € 51,650.

1867 Malling Hansen, the world's first serial production writing machine, sold for € 130,985.

"Revolver Photographique" (Thompson's Revolver Camera) by A. Briois, Paris, 1862, sold for € 63,640.

Original American Patent Model of an Adding Machine by C. Winter, 1862, sold for € 36,900.

the traditional auction format with an additional live audio-visual link direct from the saleroom available to every internet bidder.

THE REMINGTON COLLECTION

A special privilege and honour for the specialist auctioneers was the 2007 deaccession from the Remington Typewriter Museum of Syracuse, New York, of the oldest and most significant collection of historical writing machines. Though many American collectors found it hard to believe that such an important 'national treasure' should have been

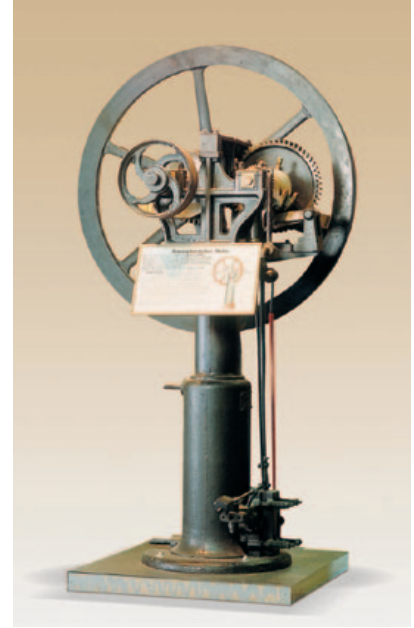


allowed to leave the country, for the decision makers at the museum it was a simple choice, as there was no viable alternative internationally for maximising the value of such a large collection comprising more than 800 classic machines. The entire 130-year-old collection was sold with sensational international success to a worldwide audience in five consecutive auctions. Another equally positive consignment was the container shipment of classic film equipment straight from Hollywood, of which interestingly more than 70 % was sold and shipped back to America. Consignments from collectors in the Far East are also shipped by sea container for auction in Cologne.

LIVE AUCTIONS

Optimal presence and acquisition of material worldwide have always been a triumph for Auction Team Breker. Eight years ago they were the first European auction house to make their traditional auctions available online to collectors worldwide through "Ebay Live", accompanied as always by a bilingual German/English catalogue with colour illustrations of every single item. In April 2008, the Cologne auctioneers were also the first to stream their live auctions with an audio-visual link from the saleroom to the world. Despite the withdrawal of Ebay Live at the beginning of 2009, Breker has since doubled its online share in this most modern media.





OTTO-MOTOR

Yet another example of the benefit of smart presentation and worldwide marketing was proven by the sale of an exhibit from a Düsseldorf Museum, which had already been marked for scrap. The story concerns an original Otto Motor invented in 1870 in Cologne; measuring almost three metres and weighing two tonnes, it was the very first combustion engine and played a definitive part in the motorisation of the world.

Though its immense proportions made it an unlikely object for private collectors, an intense battle between several overseas buyers soon drove bidding from the cautious € 5000 reserve to a



Blick Electric, 1902. Only three examples of this, the first electric writing machine, are known worldwide. Sold for € 67,600.

Original Otto Motor, 1870. The first combustion motor in the world, by Nicolaus August Otto & Eugen Langen of Cologne. Sold for € 145,000.

Maskelyne No. 3, 1893. Exceedingly attractive English typebar writing machine with 'Grasshopper' mechanism. Sold for € 22,100.

Rare 1942 Leica 250GG with motor. Sold for € 108,155.

1916 Telefunken "E5G" Radio Detector, from the early days of radio, sold for € 18,750.

1942 "Enigma", the legendary German cyphering machine that influenced the outcome of the WWII, sold for € 59,375.



record € 145,000 paid by an Australian motor specialist.

Ten representatives in China, Japan, Australia, the U.S.A. and Europe provide customer care for the consignors and buyers, whether they are state museums, public institutions or private collections. The company's own ware-



house premises in New York makes consignment easy for collectors from North and South America. From there, container shipments are dispatched to Germany, free of charge to the customer, customs duty included.

A bilingual (German/English), fully-illustrated colour catalogue is produced for each auction.

Info: www.Breker.com

Fotos: Auction Team Breker

AUCTION TEAM BREKER

The Specialists for »Technical Antiques«

P. O. Box 50 11 19, 50971 Koeln/Germany · Tel.: +49 / 2236 / 38 43 40 · Fax: +49 / 2236 / 38 43 430
 Otto-Hahn-Str. 10, 50997 Koeln (Godorf)/Germany · e-mail: Auction@Breker.com · Business Hours: Tue – Fri 9 am – 5 pm

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

U.S.A.: Lee Richmond, 'The Best Things', Tel. (703) 796-5544 * Fax (703) 766-0966 * BREKER@TheBestThings.com

France: Pierre J. Bickart, Tel. (01) 43 33 86 71 * AuctionTeamKoln@aol.com

England: Tel. 07779-637317 * Brian Chesters, Tel. 07970-923 301 * g4nxw@hotmail.co.uk · **Japan:** Murakami Taizo, Tel./Fax (06) 6845-8628 * murakami@ops.dti.ne.jp

Australia & New Zealand: Dieter Bardenheier, NZ, Tel./Fax +64(09) 817-7268 * dbarden@orcon.net.nz

China: Jiang Feng, Tel. (China): 0086-1386-2062075, (Deutschland): 0179-484 5391, jiangfengde@gmail.com

Russia: Russian Antique Inc., Tel. +7 812 438 1525 * Tel. +7 495 542 4061, PR@antiq.info (catalogues) Polyguide Ltd. Moscow,
 Tel. (925) 740-66-03, Tel/Fax (985) 999-93-55, ml.mediaservice@gmail.com (Buy & sell of auction goods)