

Rare Nintendo Pokémon "Pikachu Illustrator" promotional card soars to a record \$224,250 at Weiss Auctions, October 23rd

The trainer promotional hologram trading card, graded in Mint 9 condition, was presented to a winner at the 1998 CoroCoro Comic illustration contest in Japan.

LYNBROOK, NY, UNITED STATES, October 31, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A [Nintendo](#) Pokémon "[Pikachu](#) Illustrator" trainer promotional hologram trading card, graded in Mint 9 condition and given to a winner at the 1998 CoroCoro Comic illustration contest in Japan, soared to \$224,250 (a new world auction record) at an auction held October 23rd by Weiss Auctions, online and in firm's Lynbrook gallery at 74 Merrick Road.

Fan-favorite Pikachu starred on what is inarguably the most valuable and rarest Pokémon card in the world, accounting for the dizzying selling price. Although the technical name for the card is "Pokémon Illustrator", it is known as "Pikachu Illustrator" due to the image. What makes it so rare is that it wasn't sold but awarded as a prize at the illustration contest thru CoroCoro Comic.

The card was created specifically for the contest. In the January 1998 issue, three first place winners won a copy of the card, as did another 20 second place winners. With cards awarded in two more contests that year, there were a maximum of 39 copies released. It isn't known exactly how many surviving copies are still around; however, only 10 PSA certified copies are known.

The card sold is the only card in the long-running collectible card game series to say "Illustrator" at the top of a trainer card, and the only one to bear the pen symbol in the bottom right corner. The artwork is by Japanese illustrator Atsuko Nishida. The card carried a pre-sale estimate of \$125,000-\$175,000, which some believed was high, but determined bidders thought otherwise.

The rest of the auction had 500 interesting, fresh-to-the-market lots, in categories that included sports, cards, comic books, comic art, animation, Disney memorabilia and more. The runner-up top lot was a genuine Superman rarity: the complete five-volume set of Science Fiction Fanzine #1-5, including The Reign of Superman (1933-1934), by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster (\$44,070).

It was just the third time that Weiss Auctions had ever offered the set in its entirety. Two of the issues were signed by Siegel, one as "Jerome Siegel" in blue pencil on an editorial page and one as part of a pencil note to a subscriber. Some copies had pages that were in the wrong order due



Nintendo Pokemon "Pikachu Illustrator" trainer promo hologram card graded Mint 9 condition, given to a winner at the 1998 CoroCoro Comic Illustration contest in Japan (\$224,250).

to the amateurish nature of the printing from Siegel and Schuster, still in high school at the time.

Following are additional highlights from the auction. Internet bidding was facilitated by Proxibid.com and Invaluable.com. All prices quoted include the buyer's premium.

A scarce original production cel from the 1935 Disney film *The Band Playing* – the very first Mickey Mouse color short – finished at \$11,865. The cel measured 5 inches by 6 ½ inches and had a great image of Mickey leading the band. It was one of many Disney lots in the auction.

An eight-page pen-and-ink *Batman* story done in 1994 by the illustrator Joe Kubert (back-dated 1996, DC Publications, issue unknown) realized \$9,000. The story was accompanied by photo-copies of these and other pages and came out of Kubert's estate, as were other items in the sale.

An original Sunday comic page for *Buster Brown* and *Tige* by Richard Outcault (1863-1928), dated Sept. 24, 1916, with hand-colored highlights, changed hands for \$7,800. The watercolor and ink over graphite comic page, quite rare and desirable, measured 20 inches by 21 inches.

Another Disney lot that had paddles wagging was a fabulous production cel for *Snow White*, shown at a well with five doves (two of which have gotten loose), on a Courvoisier background. The cel – 8 ½ inches square – sold within its \$3,000-\$5,000 estimate to hammer for \$4,400.

Weiss Auctions will have what is shaping up to be one of its most important auction events ever on Thursday, November 21st, online and in the Lynbrook gallery. The estate sale will feature an important early 18th century sterling silver tankard bearing the mark of "Bartholomew Le Roux", a 27-inch Tiffany Studios linen fold lamp and a large selection of linen-backed vintage posters.



Fabulous production cel of *Snow White*, shown at a well with five doves (two of which have gotten loose), on a Courvoisier background, 8 ½ inches by 8 ½ inches (\$4,400).



Scarce original production cel from the 1935 Disney film *The Band Playing* – the very first Mickey Mouse color short measuring 5 inches by 6 ½ inches (\$11,865).

Also sold will be a collection of works from New England School artists; important artworks by Joan Miro and Marc Chagall; an oil painting by Jean Dufy; a large illustration painting by James Montgomery Flagg; a large selection of better Nippon pieces; bronzes and porcelains; and estate jewelry items ordered sold on behalf of the New York and Bronx Public Administrators Offices.

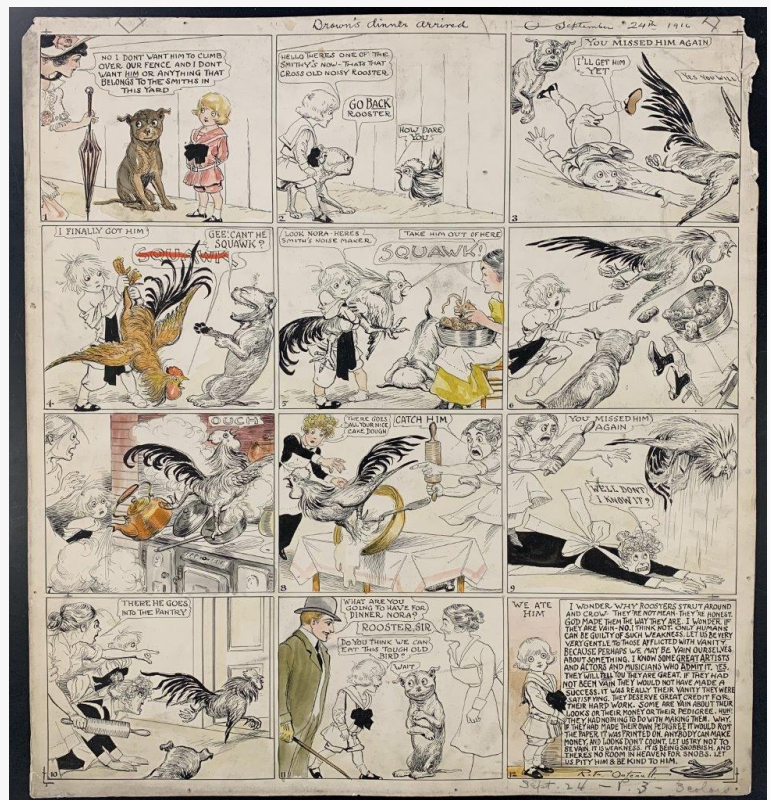
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Complete five-volume set of Science Fiction Fanzine #1-5, including The Reign of Superman (1933-1934), a highly coveted Superman rarity by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster (\$44,070).



Original Sunday comic page for Buster Brown and Tige by Richard Outcault (1863-1928), dated Sept. 24, 1916, watercolor and ink over graphite with hand-colored highlights (\$7,800).

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