

# Everything from pinballs to petroliana performs well in three days of online auctions held May 10-12 by Miller & Miller

*The sales featured toys, historic ephemera, militaria, advertising signs, petroliana, soda advertising, automobilia, breweriana, pinball machines and coin-ops.*

NEW HAMBURG, ONTARIO, CANADA, May 16, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A Canadian 1940s McColl-Frontenac service station sign, six feet in diameter, soared to \$22,420; a Bally's Gilligan's Island pinball machine from 1991 went for \$10,030; and a Japanese 1950s Linemar toy Good Humor Ice Cream delivery truck hit \$3,245 in three days of online auctions held May 10th-11th-12th by Miller & Miller Auctions, Ltd.

All prices quoted in this report are in Canadian dollars.

The auctions included a [Toys & Historic Ephemera auction](#) featuring Part 2 of the late Howie Meyer Legacy collection held on Friday, May 10th; a [Toys, Advertising & Coin-Op auction](#) held on Saturday, May 11th; and a [Petroliana & Advertising auction](#) featuring the late Syl Rumas collection held on Sunday, May 12th. The three sales combined totaled a gross of \$947,156.50.

"Toys sold in our inaugural online-only sale for the late Howie Meyer Collection performed well," said Ethan Miller of Miller & Miller Auctions, Ltd. "Some rare boxed examples crushed the high estimates – especially anything Disney. In the collector market, the upper five percent of any category is where to invest but first, make sure you like it. Top items did well this weekend."



This Canadian 1940s McColl-Frontenac double-sided porcelain service station sign, six feet in diameter, bested its \$6,000-\$9,000 estimate and was the top lot of the three days (CA\$22,420).

Mr. Miller went on to say, "We can still feel the afterglow from the Rumas Collection sold on Sunday. Choice porcelain dealer signs soared through the roof. However, I do sense a slight regression in the advertising market compared to the fever during the pandemic. Great things are performing, but the importance of condition, size, and medium seems to have grown somewhat."

Petroliana lots on Day 3 posted some of the highest overall prices. The Petroliana & Advertising auction was a three-part event that featured the petroliana collection of the late Syl Rumas (signs, Canadian gas pumps, cans, ephemera and more), plus petroliana selections from the collection of the late Ken Hatt of Inverness, British Columbia (signs, Red Indian ephemera, Red Head tins).



Japanese-made 1950s Linemar toy Good Humor Ice Cream delivery truck, modeled after a Ford F-250 and marked on the box and rear underside of the toy (CA\$3,245).

The McColl-Frontenac double-sided porcelain sign easily bested its \$6,000-\$9,000 estimate to be the day's top achiever, while a Canadian 1940s White Rose single-sided porcelain service station sign, 36 inches in diameter and marked 'P&M 47' to the lower edge, topped an identical estimate by changing hands for \$20,060. Both were expected to do well and each exceeded expectations.

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*Ethan Miller*

Rounding out the Day 3 action, a Canadian 1940s Supertest Gasoline double-sided service station sign, five feet in diameter with the original aluminum frame and hardware, finished at \$18,800 against a pre-sale estimate of \$8,000-\$12,000; while a Canadian 1940s White Rose

Gasoline double-sided porcelain "Slate Boy" service station sign, four feet in diameter with excellent color and gloss on both sides, brought \$17,700 against an estimate of \$9,000-\$12,000.

Following are additional highlights from the three auctions, in which a total of 907 online bidders placed a combined total of 18,920 bids. Internet bidding was facilitated by LiveAuctioneers.com

and the Miller & Miller Auctions website. Of the 1,139 total lots up for bid, nearly all of them were sold and better than 50 percent of all lots surpassed estimates.

On Day 2's Toys, Advertising & Coin-Op auction, the Bally Gilligan's Island pinball machine made in America in 1991, fully restored, a fun, family-friendly game that even played the theme song from TV's Gilligan's Island, was the top earner. Runner-up to that was an American 1950s 16 hp Mercury Mark 20 racing boat motor with Quickie Prop lower unit – the holy grail for collectors, with a low serial number – topped its \$5,000 high estimate by gaveling for \$8,850.

An early and exquisite John H.R. Molson and Brothers single-sided porcelain Montreal India Pale Ale corner sign (Canadian, 20th century), 24 inches by 16 ½ inches, with "IPA" scripted beneath the profusely illustrated logo, went for \$8,850. Also, an American 1957 Seeburg model KD-200 jukebox with veneer case and chrome trim – a highly sought-after machine known for the iconic 1950s tail light grille and rotating selector drum, completely serviced – made \$8,260.

The May 10th Toys & Historic Ephemera auction contained 340 lots of toys and militaria, with Howie Meyer the undisputed headliner. His many and varied interests included pressed steel and tinplate toys, comic characters, ice cream, construction, space, Western and Americana, World War and anti-Axis propaganda posters and ephemera, figural sewing tapes and other oddities.

The Linemar Good Humor ice cream delivery truck was modeled after a Ford F-250. It was marked on the box and rear underside of the toy. Linemar was the trade name Marx used for toys manufactured in Japan and sold by Marx. Achieving an identical selling price of \$3,245 was a complete, new-in-box (NIB) toy tow truck from Smith-Miller (Smitty Toys), made in America in the 1980s and number 19 of 125 made. The high-quality trucks were crafted by Fred Thompson.

A group of Marx "ELM" ("Excellent Louis Marx") Disney character cars made in Hong Kong and America in the 1950s and 60s, including Disneykins Alice in Wonderland, a Mickey and Minnie



Bally Gilligan's Island pinball machine made in America in 1991 and fully restored. The early, sought-after machine plays the theme song from TV's Gilligan's Island (CA\$10,030).

“Rumba Rhythm” toy, two Magic Marxie cars, three Donald Duck cars, three Goofy cars and others, fetched \$2,360. Also, a Marx “ELM” group of Popeye character cars, made in Hong Kong in the 1950s, with the toys and boxes all in excellent condition, also commanded \$2,360.

To watch a brief YouTube video recap of the May 12th auction results, please click this link:

<https://youtu.be/lj9yCGSKtWE>

Next up for Miller & Miller Auctions, Ltd. is a Petroliana, Automobilia & Advertising auction featuring the Dr. Michael Francis collection on Saturday, June 15th; and an Advertising, Pottery & Historic Objects auction featuring the Jon Church collection the very next day, on June 16th.

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Ethan Miller  
Miller & Miller Auctions, Ltd.  
+1 519-573-3710  
[email us here](#)





American 1950s 16 hp Mercury Mark 20 racing boat motor with Quickie Prop lower unit – the holy grail for collectors, with a low serial number (CA\$8,850).

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