CLASSIC DRIVER

Small Cars, Big Prices: RM's \$9.1m Bruce Weiner Collection sale

Lead

We are used to multi-million-dollar sales, but here's one with a (tiny) twist. Over two days, RM Auctions sold every single lot of the Bruce Weiner Microcar Museum catalogue. Grossing \$9.1m, many of the individual items achieved staggering figures...

It was as if aliens, having monitored the inexorable rise of collectors' car prices on Earth, had decided to land in Madison, Georgia, and buy up anything 'classic' that wasn't physically bolted to the floor.

Except that for 'Ferrari' substitute 'Heinkel', 'Messerschmitt' or 'Goggomobil'. Not so long ago, USD 322,000 would have bought you a pretty decent Ferrari 'Daytona', '73 Carrera RS or Aston Martin DB5. Last Saturday, someone wanted the only example in 'rose' of Fritz Fend's four-wheeled bubble car (the 1958 F.M.R. Tg 500 'Tiger', top) so much that they bid that sum for it in less than 10 minutes.

Other monstrous figures for miniscule machinery included USD 184,000 for the bizarre French 1951 Reyonnah (below) with its folding front wheels that enabled it to be stored in front gardens (or even inside a house) and the very rare 1958 Goggomobil TL-400 Transporter in 'PEZ' livery (above), a small commercial vehicle which made USD 172.500.

Do have a look at the results and boggle. And what this means for the market as a whole, who knows.

We can't help feeling that the 'meteor' that caused such a stir in Russia last weekend was too much of a coincidence. It was, in truth, the discarded booster rockets of our little green friends returning to the planet Thrarg, 542 lots of microcar-mobilia to the better.

RM Auctions Bruce Weiner Collection, 15-16 February 2013: Top Twenty Results

Lot No.	Motor Car	Price USD
603	1958 F.M.R. Tg 500 'Tiger'	322,000
594	1951 Reyonnah	184,000
613	1958 Goggomobil TL-400 Transporter 'PEZ'	172,500
590	1955 Inter 175A Berline	161,000
297	1959 Goggomobil TL-400 Transporter Pickup 'Coca-Cola'	138,000
563	1963 Goggomobil TL-250 Transporter 'Dubble Bubble'	132,250
623	1955 Fuji Cabin	126,500
258	1964 Peel P50	120,750
595	1955 Messerschmitt KR 200 'Vic Hyde'	115,000
564	1957 Messerschmitt KR 201 Roadster	103,500
259	1957 Jurisch Motoplan Prototype	103,500
587	1966 Peel Trident	103,500
284	1956 Paul Vallée	98,900
561	1957 Iso Isettacarro	97,750
298	1962 Messerschmitt KR 200 Service Car	94,875
311	1958 BMW 600	92,000
251	1959 Messerschmitt KR 200 Sport	92,000
269	1963 Goggomobil TL-250 Transporter 'Krispy Kreme'	92,000
584	1959 BMW Isetta 'Whatta Drag'	92,000
249	1956 BMW Isetta 'Bubble Window' Cabrio	89,700

Video: RM Auctions

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