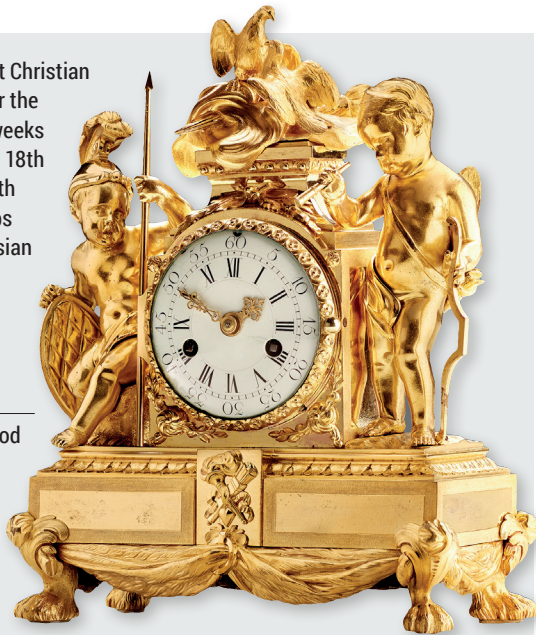


Right: among the exhibits at Christian Eduard Franke-Landwers for the Bamberg art and antiques weeks is this 11in (28cm) high, late 18th century gilt bronze clock with allegorical figures of cherubs as warriors. It is by the Parisian bronzier François Vion, with a striking movement by Philippe Gros. The clock carries a price tag of €38,600.

Below: 15th century limewood figure of the Virgin on show at Walter Senger as part of the Bamberg art and antiques weeks, priced at €24,000.



Bamberg boom time



Over 20 years ago, leading art and antiques dealers in the picturesque Bavarian city of Bamberg came up with the idea of holding a coordinated summer sales exhibition, writes Jonathan Franks.

The concept proved to be a long-standing success. It attracts visitors from all over Germany and the rest of Europe; many of them combining a trip to Bamberg with a visit to the Wagner festival in nearby Bayreuth.

Shows in own premises

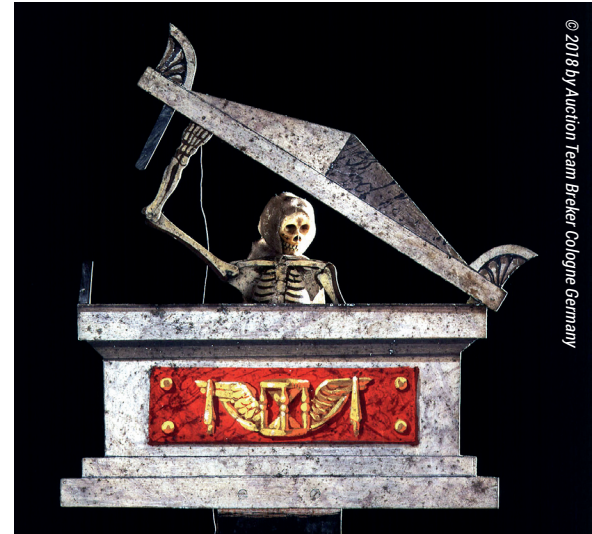
This year 10 dealers are holding the 23rd edition of the *Bamberger Kunst- und Antiquitätenwochen* (art and antiques weeks) which runs until August 23.

The selling exhibitions are held in the dealers' own premises. These are all in close proximity in the heart of the old city, which combines medieval, Rococo and Baroque architecture and is, not surprisingly, a UNESCO world heritage site.

The timeline ranges from the early 15th century, with the small limewood figure of the Virgin offered by Walter Senger shown here, to the early 20th century. The Glaserie Pusch is offering a Dutch Art Nouveau faience vase with polychrome floral motifs for €650.

► bamberger-antiquaeten.de

Right: painted optical illusion of a sarcophagus with a skeleton for use in a *Fantascope* viewer – estimate €30,000-50,000 in the September 29 sale at Auction Team Breker.



Saleroom offers view to a thrill

Specialist auction features optical delights

by Anne Crane

Magic lanterns, peep shows and various other optical illusory and viewing devices will be on sale at a specialist Cologne auction firm offering photographic, scientific and collectors' apparatus.

Auction Team Breker is holding a sale on September 29 devoted to Cameras, Photographica and Optical Toys.

Among the earliest and most unusual is this painting of a skeleton, shown above.

It would have been used as one of the elements projected to create illusory special effects through a *Fantascope*, a complex apparatus patented in 1799 by the Belgian showman Etienne-Gaspard Robert to create lantern shows which were highly popular in pre-cinema days.

The projection shows a sarcophagus whose lid lifts as a skeleton clambers out.

It is one of four such illustrations depicted in Molteni's *Instructions sur l'Emploi des Appareils de Projection* alongside a classical head, a grim reaper figure and a death's head.

The skeleton has an estimate of €30,000-50,000.

Another early apparatus is an oak-cased peep show of c.1780 probably of Dutch manufacture, estimated at €3500-5000.

For children there is the game of *Anamorphoses* from c.1820 also shown, below, featuring a set of cards with anamorphic images whose 'true', undistorted view is revealed when they are viewed via a cylindrical prism through a magic mirror.

The sale is also rich in various later 19th century viewing devices such as a French *Praxinoscope* theatre produced by Emile Reynaud, Paris, c.1878, guided at €2500-3000 and a *Megaletoscope* photograph viewer of c.1870, by Carlo Ponti, estimated at €3500-4500. ■

► breker.com

Right: *Anamorphoses*, a children's game with anamorphic cards from c.1820. Estimate €1500-1800 in Auction Team Breker's September 29 auction.



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