

SA741027

1840 German Tumbling Acrobat Gravity Toy Steps Papered Automaton

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA741027****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 11 cm (4.3")

Width = 16.5 cm (6.5")

Depth = 7.5 cm (3.0")

Description

Very rare antique gravity powered tumbling Chinese acrobat toy automaton, German, circa 1840 The wooden box with lithographed paper cover has fitted papered and painted interior lid and drawer, which assembles as a multi-step platform. The composition / paper mache / wooden man with painted hair, facial features, moustache and goatee, the torso with embossed gold trim, flat wooden hands and long wooden feet, dressed in red silk apron. The man is placed facing backwards on the upper tier, he is weighted to perform backward rolls down the tiered steps, as though turning somersaults in an extraordinary life like manner. In generally excellent condition. This rare highly decorative toy, although simple in appearance, is meticulously designed for perfect balance, and has all original parts, painting and costume, noting two repaired fingers and repaired re-papered box panel above the drawer. Height set up 29cm , gross weight 250 grams.

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