

SA833615

Early 20th Century Swiss Singing Bird Automaton by Reuge Music, Sainte-Croix.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA833615****Date of manufacture: 1920**

Dimensions

Height = 26 cm (10.2")

Width = 15 cm (5.9")

Description

An early 20th century Swiss singing bird automaton by Reuge Music. The automaton has two settings operated by flicking a switch underneath the cage, with the birds having two distinct calls with each setting. The latter setting has a music note next to it indicating that music was once played alongside the birds. Note that the music no longer plays, however both birds' still call loud and clear with different rhythms to each setting. The birds and cage remain in a wholly original untouched condition. The cage is brass and of a French Bontem design, used as the model for early Griesbaum and ultimately became the enduring Reuge design as well. The bars of the cage are slightly warped on one side (please see photographs) but remain firm. Inside the cage, there are two birds; one red and one yellow. The red bird has some thinning of feathers to the chest but remains in a very good condition overall. The yellow bird is missing a left eye, but otherwise remains in a good condition. Both birds sing when wound with the beaks opening and closing as they should. The birds are raised above the original green felt interior which shows signs of fading and wear commensurate with a...

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