

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 UPCOMING AUCTIONS



Wild and wonderful vintage technology returns to Auction Team Breker Nov. 4



WYATT BARRETT

KOELN, Germany — The vintage technology specialists at **Auction Team Breker** return with another wild and wonderful offering of mechanical, optical and audible marvels from days past with their **Science & Technology / Mechanical Music / Photography & Film** sale on Saturday, November 4. The catalog is now available for bidding at **LiveAuctioneers**.

Claude Chappe (1763-1805) was a French inventor who linked his country with the first visual, line-of-sight semaphore system, thereby creating the first telegraphic technology. Chappe even coined “telegraph” and “semaphore,” terms we use to this very day. Breker’s sale includes **Les Petits Télégraphes**, a game of telecommunication based on Chappe’s nationwide semaphore system. It is estimated at €2,500-€3,000 (\$2,650-\$3,180).

The Reichstelegraphenverwaltung (Imperial Telegraph Administration) was an early telecom for Prussia and later Germany. This **Butterstamp telephone** dates to 1880 and was the first standard telephone model used by the RTV. Marked Siemens & Halske, Berlin and made of turned wood and brass, the phone is estimated at €4,000-€5,000 (\$4,240-\$5,300).

Two head-turning jukeboxes are included in the November 4 sale. From the king of jukes comes this **Wurlitzer Model 780, known as a ‘wagon wheel,’** released on the eve of World War II in 1941. The auctioneer notes that only 2,800 wagon wheels were made, leading this example to have an estimate of €4,000-€5,000 (\$4,240-\$5,300).

Pierre Eich was a famed Belgian builder of orchestrions and other mechanical music devices in the early 20th century. In the postwar period, **the firm released the Goliath**, its take on the burgeoning jukebox movement spreading throughout Europe thanks to occupying GIs. This model uses a unique pneumatic system of control, similar to that found in a pipe organ. It is estimated at €10,000-€12,000 (\$10,600-\$12,720).