

Childs Play

A child's clockwork model of the 1925 Lyon Grand Prix winning Alfa Romeo P2 is one of the star lots in the Charterhouse March Collectors auction in Sherborne.

"These models were very expensive new and I have seen and sold just a handful of them over the past 30 years" commented Richard Bromell. "They always generate huge interest from collectors. Usually they are painted red, blue, green or silver, but this is the first time I have ever seen a model painted in a lavender colour."

Made by the French company CIJ in the 1920's these models have rack and pinion steering, detachable wheels with knock-off spinners, Michelin tyres and quick release filler caps along with other fine detailing. Measuring 51 cm, these are large tinsplate models and were often left outside due to their size. As a result, many have become rusted, but the P2 going under the Charterhouse hammer has survived in remarkable condition and is a rare collector's find.





Childs play - the Alfa Romeo P2 clockwork racing car.

The owner inherited the car from his grandfather and took it into the Charterhouse salerooms on a model and toy valuation day. He was surprised to hear the auctioneers estimate it at £3,000-£5,000, and entered it into their collector's auction on **Friday 18th March**.

Charterhouse is now accepting entries for this forthcoming auction of model cars and trains, other toys, dolls, militaria, medals, coins, stamps, postcards, clocks, watches and other collectors' items on Friday 18th March. They are also taking entries for their specialist auctions of classic cars in April and their classic motorcycles auction in May.

For further information regarding these auctions, or to arrange a home visit, please contact Richard Bromell at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne **01935 812277** or **email Richard** with items for valuation at **info@charterhouse-auction.com**