

THE ART OF THE FAIRGROUND AT AUCTION

*Veronica Smith
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INCLUDING IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS OF CIRCUS ARTIFACTS AND EXCEPTIONAL CARROUSEL CARVINGS



LINCOLN CENTER
Under the tent of
THE BIG APPLE CIRCUS
. . . the performing arm of
The New York School for Circus Arts
NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 1986

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 12 noon - 9 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

GALA PREVIEW PARTY

HALLOWEEN EVENING, OCTOBER 31, 8 p.m.
To Benefit The Big Apple Circus
Admission \$12.50, Costumes Optional!

GUEST LECTURES

On Friday, October 31, and Saturday, November 1,
noted speakers will present special lectures on
the history of the circus and carousel art.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 9:30 a.m.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 9:30 a.m.

LINCOLN CENTER
66TH STREET AND BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

GUERNSEY'S

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Admission to Public Exhibition and Auction: \$4.00 per person or catalogue admits two.



THE PARKER "GRAND JUBILEE" CARROUSEL, ca. 1917

An exceptional carousel, the Grand Jubilee is considered to be one of the finest Parker merry-go-rounds made.

C.W. Parker, born in 1864, to a midwestern farming family, did not have the advantages of many of the great carousel carvers of his time, as he was not "born into" the business, nor did he serve a lengthy apprenticeship in one of the east coast carousel factories. However, his love of the carnival led him in 1892, at the age of 28, to invest his entire savings in an interest in a small used carousel, which he took on tour for 3 years, charging a nickel a ride.

In 1895, the great Parker Amusement Co. was founded, and the career of "Colonel" Parker, one of America's great carousel manufacturers was launched, with four carousels on the road by 1904. Parker did not limit himself to merry-go-rounds, but his entrepreneurial instincts led him to span the breadth of the amusement device business, and his company manufactured shooting galleries, tents, band organs, even steam engines. It is however, Parker's carousels for which he is truly remembered.

In 1911, Parker moved his business to Leavonworth, Kansas, and as his business evolved, the style of his carousel animals changed radically. In 1917, Parker copyrighted a new set of designs for his carousel horses featuring strong, wild silhouettes, with legs extended, ferocious facial expressions and many jewels.

During the heyday of Parker, the company held innumerable patents, and shipped its carousels world-wide. C.W. Parker died in 1932, and his son continued to operate the business until the 1950s.

The Grand Jubilee carousel featured here is from the Parker Amusement Co.'s best years, and is an exceptional example of Parker's craft. Manufactured in 1917, when Parker's finest carousels were being made and the company was at the height of its success, the carousel is composed of 40 magnificent horses, 2 double-seated chariots and 1 single-seated chariot. The horses are among the most dramatic ever created by Parker, with aggressive faces and peak-a-boo manes, and are resplendent with exquisitely carved saddles and many jewels.

In 1981, a \$200,000 restoration was completed and the Grand Jubilee found a temporary home on the stage of Walt Disney Studios in California to be used in Disney's \$15 million movie, "Something Wicked This Way Comes." The ferocious appearance of these horses was ideally suited to the film, in which the carousel played a major role. (Running backwards, the carousel transported its riders through time.)

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

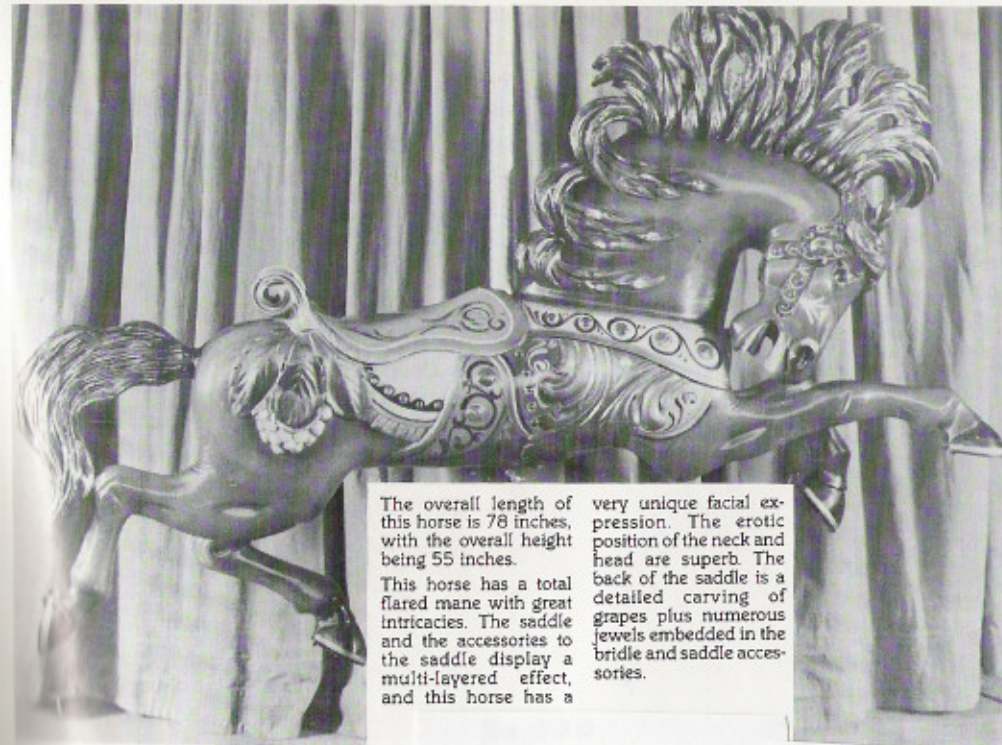
On an average, the outside horses are five to six inches larger than the middle row of horses, and then in turn, the middle horses are five to six inches larger than the inner row of horses. All of the horses are in a series of three that is to say that the outside, to middle in one row are distinguishable from any other set of three horses.

The expression and seamless endless energy that the horses present distinguishes them from other Carousel horses. The expressions can probably be related to the Prisoners of War that created these masterpieces with the obvious craftsmanship that was carried down through generations in their respective families.

A combination of confusion, frustration, anxiety and anger is displayed due to the problem of being captured and being retained in a strange and foreign land. These feelings seem to "ooze" from the overall expression and the presence of mind that these horses display. They seem to be telling a story; telling thoughts of their creators and disruptions at the time of capture. In short, they are simply magnificent creations and creatures.

Please Note:

Guernsey's is pleased to be able to offer the animals of the extraordinary Grand Jubilee. Although only a handful are described and pictured, all forty (plus chariots) will be sold. Due to press deadlines, all items were not able to be lotted at this time. It should be noted that the various horses from this machine may be offered at auction in a unique and fascinating way and potential bidders are urged to inquire from Guernsey's prior to the auction date as to the precise method of sale.



The overall length of this horse is 78 inches, with the overall height being 55 inches.

This horse has a total flared mane with great intricacies. The saddle and the accessories to the saddle display a multi-layered effect, and this horse has a

very unique facial expression. The erotic position of the neck and head are superb. The back of the saddle is a detailed carving of grapes plus numerous jewels embedded in the bridle and saddle accessories.



These smaller horses have fully extended positions, with their heads slightly cocked to the right. They also have full sweeping manes. One horse has a fish carving at the back of the saddle. Another has an ear of corn at the back of the saddle, while a third has a dog and the fourth has a carved design. The overall length is 45 inches for each horse.



mane on this horse is much shorter, which allows for a more detailed carving of the accessories of the neck. Again, this horse has multiple jewels embedded throughout the bridle neck decoration, and all saddle accessories. The carvings on the side of the saddle

depict that of a hunter, showing a rabbit gun, including a carved rabbit at the rear of the saddle. The tail is also much shorter in length. The back of the saddle is a carving of a lion. The overall length of this horse is 69 inches.



The intricacies of the falling and flaring mane combination of this horse is exquisitely portrayed. The position of the head is raised in a horizontal position. The saddle and accessories depict two fish on the rear side of the saddle, and that of a sea serpent on the front, etc., all in great detail

with several jewels embedded throughout the saddle and front saddle accessories.

The facial expression of the horse, is one of fury with the flared nostrils, and an aggressively shaped mouth. It is almost as if the animal is set to do battle. The overall length of the