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Sam Zell Automaton 9180164

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Description is written in: English.

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
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535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Zell, Sam, 1941-
Title:	Sam Zell Automaton
ID:	9180164
ID:	MS#1602
Date [inclusive]:	1999-2006
Physical Description:	8 linear feet 8 oversized custom boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Sam Zell Automaton; Box; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Samuel "Sam" Zell. Billionaire investor and chairman of Equity Group Investments, an investment firm focused on transportation, real-estate, energy, media and healthcare industries.

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Summary

Collection of eight automaton. Samuel "Sam" Zell. Billionaire investor and chairman of Equity Group Investments, an investment firm focused on transportation, real-estate, energy, media and healthcare industries. Mr. Zell has 675 automaton made each year and gives them out

as New Year's presents. The automatons are freestanding sculptural objects that represent a different topic each year. They are charged with an AC adaptor and then started by the push of a button. They begin by playing a new year's message from Sam Zell and then continue with a song parody, generally about the economy (although the 2004 automaton is about the election). The automatons move at the same time as they play the message and song.

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Arrangement

Material is organized chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-02-10 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2011.2012.M060: Source of acquisition--Gale, Barden. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--11/15/2011.

Processing Information

Items processed Wes Alcenat 02/10/2012.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Wes Alcenat 02/10/2012.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Automata
- Zell, Sam, 1941-

Collection Inventory

Sam Zell Automaton, 1999-2006

Title/Description	Instances
The Emperor Has No Clothes, 1999	box 1

Scope and Contents

(Sculptured bronze music Box featuring a figure of an unclothed emperor standing atop a pile of copies of the *Wall Street Journal* around which is a ribbon

that lists many new tech companies. A small figure (a newsboy, perhaps) stands next to the pile. The sculpture sits on a square cube base.)

No Free Lunch, 2000

box 2

Scope and Contents

(A man holding a laptop and briefcase walks a tightrope between large yen and dollar currency signs floating in a sea containing smaller currency signs and an alligator whose upper jaw is made of a car, and a golden crown. The man is looking at himself in a mirror, with "caveat emptor" on the frame, which is resting on a barrel on which sits a jester/fool. The sculpture sits on a round base. When turned on, the headlights in the alligator car head glow and the mirror reflects a lion's head.)

The Engine That Can, 2001

box 3

Scope and Contents

(Train on railway tracks. Train is a hybrid of a boat, airplane, locomotive, and truck with arms that go from train to wheels. It is towing a car containing a collection of skyscrapers. It sits on a rectangular base meant to look like carved rock with a hand at each corner, holding a hammer, lightning bolts, a log, and a sheaf of wheat.)

Get Over It, 2002

box 4

Scope and Contents

(A naked man stands on a brass measurement face of some kind, turning a crank connected to a small wheel, which is connected to a large wheel, which is connected to a sand-filled hour glass. The image is drawn from J. C. Leyendecker's (American Golden Age Illustrator, 1874-1951) "Strength and service turning the wheel of progress." When turned on, the figure turns the crank, turning over the hourglass.)

Wired Exports, 2003

box 5

Scope and Contents

(Terrestrial golden globe at the center of a compass, attached to a sextant. When turned on the globe and device parts all rotate. Sits on a cube base with elephant heads at each corner.)

This Land, 2004

box 6

Scope and Contents

(Statue of Liberty's verdigrised arm holding a golden flamed torch, attached to the pedestal of the statue.

When turned on, a lighted zipper moves the words to the Declaration of Independence around the base.)

The Theory of Relativity, 2005

box 7

Scope and Contents

(Man stands with a closed umbrella in the left hand while extending right hand palm up looking for rain. He is surrounded by 24 piles of coins. Sculpture sits on a partially founded base with a two-sided gauge indicating "supply" and "yield".)

SarBox, 2006

box 8

Scope and Contents

(Gold stock-ticker Box sits in an oval glass vitrine on a base with the words "compliance", "honestly", "integrity", "truth:", "capital flight", "liability", "audit compliance. Beneath these words is "America" and the "1" from the dollar bill. This all sits on a round wooden base with two hands with the letters "SBOX" on the fingers. When turned on, the ticker turns and tape comes out, and then retracts at end.)

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