

Mom's Joy Room

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Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & PROVENANCE

"The Bologna Donkey" — Gumont Child's Donkey & Sulky Pedal Cart

Bologna, Italy • Circa Late 1950s – Early 1960s

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$450 – \$650

Specialty collector / auction ceiling for a complete, working, well-marked example



The donkey and her sulky cart, newly arrived at Mom's Joy Room — both cars intact, original seat and mechanism in place.

Maker: Gumont, Bologna, Italy

Mark: "Gumont Bologna" with large "G" on foot rest

Materials: Hard rubber donkey; red metal sulky cart; original vinyl seat

Dimensions: Approx. 25" x 30" x 17" overall; donkey 30" L x 6" W; carriage 12" H x 12" W

Mechanism: Pedal-driven, working; 3-wheel undercarriage (7" wheels)

Condition: Excellent for age — original seat, back, wheels & hubs

PROVENANCE

Acquired in September 2026 and welcomed into the ride-on collection at Mom's Joy Room, Morgantown, West Virginia. She was chosen deliberately, after a survey of the comparable Gumont donkey carts on today's market — nearly every one of them had something wrong with it, from missing ears to seized pedal mechanisms. This one arrived whole, working, and ready to charm.

HISTORY

In the years following the Second World War, Italian toymakers earned a worldwide reputation for crafting ride-on toys with the soul of sculpture. Among the most charming of these was the Gumont firm of Bologna, whose signature creation was a hard-rubber donkey hitched to a bright red metal sulky cart — a child-sized echo of the racing sulkies and country carts once common on the Italian countryside.

The example offered here dates to the late 1950s or early 1960s, the golden twilight of the great European pedal-toy era. Her donkey is cast in hard rubber — a durable, handsome material that captured the animal's expressive, faintly comic face (note the raised eyebrow and painted wink) far better than pressed steel ever could — and she is hitched to a three-wheeled red metal carriage with its original cream vinyl seat and woven-style seat back, in the manner of a true miniature sulky. Beneath the carriage, the original pedal mechanism still works, converting a child's small legs into the steady clop-clop of an imaginary donkey on an imaginary road.

Gumont donkey carts surface only rarely on today's market, and condition is almost always the deciding factor in value. Comparable examples that have come up at auction and through dealers are frequently missing an ear, stripped of paint, or seized at the pedal mechanism. This specimen is the exception: both ears intact, her cheerful painted face undamaged, and the pedal mechanism still turning freely after some sixty-odd years. For a toy built to be climbed on and pedaled by children — the very use that destroys most of its kind — this degree of survival is genuinely remarkable.

The cart retains its original "Gumont Bologna" identity, marked with a large "G" on the foot rest, and remains fitted throughout with its original seat, seat back, wheels, and hubs. She is a piece of mid-century Italian folk-toymaking of the first order — equal parts plaything, sculpture, and time machine — and a fitting stablemate for the shop's growing collection of vintage ride-on toys.

NOTABLE FEATURES

- Original "Gumont Bologna" maker's identity with large "G" on the foot rest
- Pedal mechanism beneath the carriage still in working order
- Original cream vinyl seat and woven-style seat back; original wheels and hubs
- Hard-rubber donkey with both ears intact and expressive hand-painted face
- Bright red metal sulky cart — the child-sized descendant of Italian racing sulkies
- Exceptional survival: among the finest-conditioned Gumont examples known to the current market

CONDITION REPORT

In excellent overall condition for a toy of its age — genuinely among the finest examples currently in circulation. The pedal mechanism turns freely, the donkey stands whole and proud with both ears present, and her painted face shows no damage or fading of note. The vinyl seat and metal cart body present cleanly, with only the light, honest patina one expects from a well-loved sixty-year-old toy.

COLLECTOR'S NOTES

The "Gumont Bologna" mark is present on the foot rest, confirmed upon the piece's arrival at Mom's Joy Room.

Valuation reflects the piece's exceptional condition relative to other known examples currently on the market — comparable Gumont donkey carts commonly show missing ears, paint loss, or mechanism failure. A complete, working, well-marked example such as this one commands a meaningful premium among serious collectors of vintage European ride-on toys.

"She looked past every donkey with a chipped ear or a stuck pedal, and waited for the one that still had all her wonder intact."

Sandy Wade

Proprietor, Mom's Joy Room

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