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**Unique Helicopter Patent Model on
Display at DFW Elite Toy Museum
Patent Application Pre-dates First Produced Helicopter Design**



May XX, 2010 – Fort Worth, TX – The fathers of flight, Wilbur and Orville Wright, were [inspired by a toy helicopter](#). Following their historic flight, the field of aviation exploded with ideas and plans for other flying machines.

Now you can see one of those ideas on display at the [DFW Elite Toy Museum](#) in Fort Worth. It is a patent application model for an early type of helicopter.

“We were very excited to acquire this model,” said Rodney Ross, curator of the Ft Worth toy museum. “The application papers pre-date the patent obtained by [Igor Sikorsky](#), who is credited as the inventor of the first full-production helicopter.”

Sikorsky’s patent was obtained in 1931, and his helicopters weren’t successfully produced until 1939.

The patent application for the model on display at the museum is dated April 15, 1911. The application papers are written in German, and do not refer to the model as a “helicopter”, but simply a “flying machine”. However, one look at the model reveals an undeniable resemblance to our modern helicopters.

“This model is a fascinating bit of history,” said Ross. “It came with copies of the original diagrams with instructions, and some correspondence that includes a translation of some of the technical text.”

The model has a small nameplate on each door that read “Aeroplanes Bouillot Brevete” with a small cross. It was accompanied by copies of the original diagrams of the machine, along with the original patent application papers.

To see the [helicopter patent model](#) and the entire [collection of rare toys](#) in person, stop by DFW Elite Toy Museum at 5940 Eden in [Fort Worth](#). The museum is open from 9 to 5 on weekdays. The museum accepts donations of toys from anyone interested in creating a legacy. The museum is operated by toy collector Ron Sturgeon, a [business consultant](#) and owner of [commercial properties for lease](#) in Arlington and throughout Tarrant County.

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Cutline: Fascinating early helicopter patent model is currently on display at DFW Elite Toy Museum in Fort Worth.