



112. Auction

Lot No.

46

Estimate

3,000 – 7,000 €

Rolex - Datejust Turn-O-Graph "Thunderbird"

An attractive vintage wristwatch with date - rare "Turn-O-Graph" model

CASE

18 K gold, screw back with marking 1625, bidirectional rotating 18 K gold "Thunderbird" bezel, screwed "Twinlock" winding crown.
Very good, slightly worn.

DIAL

Gilt "pie-pan" dial, applied indexes with luminous dots (Super-LumiNova), luminous baton hands (Super-LumiNova).
Very good.

MOVEMENT

Automatic.
Very good, capable of running, cleaning recommended.

MOVM. NO.	D301948
CASE NO.	3505073
REF.	1625
CAL.	1570
DIMENSIONS	36 mm
CIRCA	1972
ORIGIN	Switzerland

The Rolex Turn-O-Graph was launched in the 1950s, as one of the first wristwatches with a revolving bezel; the feature would later be perfected in the Submariner and GMT Master series. The Turn-O-Graph would also be known as "Thunderbird" later, when it became the official watch of US Air Force elite unit Thunderbirds.

This Turn-O-Graph features a perfect "pie-pan" dial as well as perfect hands. The bidirectional 18 K gold "Thunderbird" bezel and

the 36 mm case are also in very good condition.

The United States Air Force Thunderbirds are the air demonstration squadron of the United States Air Force. In the 1950s and 1960s the pilots flew jets such as the F-84G Thunderjet, the F-84F Thunderstreak or the legendary F-100C Super Sabre. These planes have of course long since been replaced with the modern F-16 Fighting Falcon, which is the aircraft the team uses today. There is little documentation on how the Thunderbirds came to be connected with Rolex watches, however, we know that there must have been some kind of a formal agreement - Rolex created special dials for the fighter pilots and the Thunderbird name as well as photographs of the jets were used in Rolex advertising; consequently the Turn-O-Graph models equipped with a bezel that turns in both directions came to be nicknamed "Thunderbird".



