Primary Maker: Gebrüder Bing
Title: Boat
Date: 1920-1927
Medium: Metal, paint
Dimensions: Overall: 18 1/2 × 42 × 6 in. (47 × 106.7 × 15.2 cm)
Credit Line: Acquired with generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Richard Gilder, and an anonymous donor
Object Number: 2014.31.4395a-f

Object Name: Transportation toy
Classification: TOYS

Curatorial Remarks:
Gebrüder Bing produced a variety of richly detailed clock-work toy ships and submarines. This example is painted in the livery of the United States Line’s flagship Leviathan. Measuring more than 800 feet long, the real liner was originally built in Germany as the Vaterland. Launched in the international race to dominate transatlantic trade, the crack liner had the misfortune of being docked in Hoboken, New Jersey when World War I was declared. Impounded by the United States, the ship was renamed and repurposed as a troop carrier. After the war the United States kept Leviathan as compensation for wartime losses. Unperturbed, Bing, a German company, made this big toy for U.S. families and so kept its American name.
Physical Description:
U.S.S. Leviathan. Ocean liner. Clockwork. Red, white, and blue hull with yellow deck and white upper portion. Three red, white, and blue smokestacks on detachable section (b). Twelve attached lifeboats. Three detachable brown masts (c-e) with red flags. One detachable French stern flag (f). Boat also includes two attached anchors at bow, and two propellers and a rudder on stern end of hull operated by a lever on the deck. Painted on both sides of hull at bow: "LEVIATHAN".

Markings: Stamped on deck: "[BW mark] / GERMANY".
Related Objects: