

**For Immediate Release**

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**AN EXOTIC COLLECTION FROM A HOUSE ON THE WILTSHIRE  
DOWNS AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN MARCH 2008**



**A House on the Wiltshire Downs**

**Christie's King Street ~ Thursday, 6 March 2008 at 10.30am**

**London** – Hidden in the rolling hills beneath a chalk white horse on the Wiltshire Downs, this quintessential English country house reveals a diverse and fascinating collection that will be offered at Christie's King Street on Thursday, 6 March 2008. A strong Colonial influence mixed with refined English country house taste is reflected throughout the collection which comprises 245 lots of English, Irish, European and Anglo-Indian furniture, works of art, garden sculpture and pictures. With estimates ranging from £300 to £80,000, the sale is estimated to fetch in excess of £1 million.

The collection features a striking group of 30 works of art made in the Indian subcontinent under British patronage including an Anglo-Indian ebony circular centre table made in Madras, *circa* 1850 (estimate: £15,000-25,000) and three mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Ceylonese ebony and caned sofas (estimates range from £2,500 to £5,000). The evocative portrait of a Parsee Gentleman of Bombay is a vivid reminder of the strong Anglo-Indian trading links (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and especially interesting is an Indian screen executed in the Kurnul District of South India with floral panels of raised gesso 'lacquer' (estimate: £1,000-1,500). So striking is the effect of this work that Lady Curzon used panels of this type to decorate the walls of her boudoir at the Circuit House, Delhi.

Irish furniture is well represented by a monumental Irish George IV mahogany breakfront bookcase, *circa* 1825 formerly from Shanbally Castle, Clogheen, Co. Tipperary (estimate: £50,000-80,000), an Irish brown oak extending dining-table, *circa* 1850 formerly from Ballynegall House in County Westmeath (estimate: £20,000-40,000) and other pieces of furniture with historic Irish provenances including Mount Juliet, Co. Kilkenny, Preham House, Derry and Merrion Square, Dublin.

A highlight of the pictures in the collection is Charles Philips' (1708-1748) *Group portrait of a family, possibly members of the Vernon family, with a servant*, 1733 (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Amongst the 20 lots of highly decorative garden pieces includes a handsome late 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian white and cipollino marble bust of Marcus Aurelius (estimate: £15,000-25,000).

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*A selection of images is available on request*

#### **Notes to Editors**

- Pre-sale viewing: 2 to 5 March 2008
- Auction: Thursday, 6 March 2008 at 10.30am

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.