

*For Immediate Release*  
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Contact: Jill Potterton 020.7752.3121 ([jpotterton@christies.com](mailto:jpotterton@christies.com))

## ***ANCIENT ARMS & ARMOUR AT CHRISTIE'S***



*A highly important Roman iron, copper and brass helmet  
Late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D.  
Estimate: £350,000-500,000*

*The Axel Guttman Collection of Ancient Arms & Armour, Part 2 at 10.30am*  
*Antiquities at 2pm*  
*Wednesday 28 April 2004*

*South Kensington - Following the resounding success of the first part of this remarkable private collection in November 2002, Christie's Antiquities Department in London will offer the second part of The Axel Guttman Collection on Wednesday 28 April. Part 2 will feature a fine selection of arms and armour from the European Bronze Age, Near East*

*and Classical world. Comprising over 179 lots dating from 3500 B.C. to 500 A.D., estimates range from £500 to £500,000.*

#### *Axel Guttman*

*Exhibited in an atmospheric but scholarly museum-like display in his Berlin home, Axel Guttman originally began collecting helmets and armour from the Middle Ages, but became increasingly fascinated by the beauty and artistic richness of ancient Greek, Roman and Near Eastern weaponry and armour. Prior to his premature death in 2001, Axel Guttman had the satisfaction of seeing eight exemplary academic and scientific books published on his superb collection, painstakingly assembled over 25 years.*

#### *Roman*

*The undoubted highlight of the sale is a stunning Roman iron, copper and brass helmet dating from the late 2<sup>nd</sup>-early 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D. (estimate: £350,000-500,000). Apart from a similar example in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum in Germany, this is the only other almost perfectly preserved helmet still in existence today. This sale will also include Axel Guttman's first ancient purchase, a rare Roman tinned bronze Imperial Gallic type 'T' helmet, circa 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C./1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. estimated at £40,000-60,000. A Roman orichalcum Imperial Gallic type 'T' helmet inscribed with the name of the Roman legionary who wore it, and one of only three known examples of this type, carries an estimate of £50,000-70,000.*

*Alongside these important helmets, the Roman section will also feature swords and cuirasses (breast and back-plates) and even two Roman leather hobnailed soles from 'caligae' (military sandals) expected to fetch up to £850. The ever-popular subject of the gladiator will once again be in evidence with terracotta and bronze figures, lamps and flasks with depictions of gladiators in combat ranging in estimate from £800 to £2,000.*

#### *Greek*

*This section, featuring helmets, greaves, shields and breastplates, is led by a massive Hoplite bronze circular shield, circa 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. estimated at £40,000-50,000. A 6<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Corinthian type bronze helmet may realise up to £30,000. Greek greaves include a pair with elaborate decoration to the knees and calf muscles from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century (estimate: £5,000-8,000).*

### Near Eastern

*A fascinating wonderful array of daggers and swords, mace-heads and axe-heads, helmets and belts can be found in this section. One lot comprises a helmet and two shoulder shields dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. that may realise up to £30,000.*

*Some of the earliest weaponry in the sale comes from the European Bronze Age and includes a large selection of swords, the highlight of which is a finely decorated sword dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. (estimate: £6,000-9,000).*

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### Antiquities

*Wednesday 28 April at 2pm*

*Highlights from the first Antiquities sale of 2004 include a European private collection featuring stunning examples of ancient bronzes including a Roman bronze bust of Zeus-Serapis, circa 1st/2nd Century A.D. (estimate: £7,000-10,000).*

*Other collections in the sale include pieces formerly from the Maurice Nahman Collection (1868-1947) the highlight of which is a Graeco-Egyptian marble head of Alexander the Great from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C. (estimate: £100,000-150,000).*

*A selection of Coptic Textiles from the Heidi Vollmoeller Collection will also be on offer (in October 2003, the first part of the collection more than doubled its pre-sale estimate, totalling £1,417,632).*

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*Images available on request*

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