

For Immediate Release

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS: CHRISTOPHER WRAY SALE AT CHRISTIE'S IN JULY



**The Christopher Wray Collection
Wednesday, 6 July 2005 at 10.30am**

South Kensington, London – Celebrating 40 years in the business, over 250 lots are to be offered from the personal collection of Christopher Wray, the London-based lighting guru and one of the mover and shakers of 1960s London, at Christie's South Kensington on 6 July 2005. Reflecting Wray's change of direction in both his business and lifestyle, the sale will offer among the best examples of period lighting and objects collected by Wray over the last 40 years.

What originally started out as a collecting passion for Wray eventually developed into a professional career and his name is now synonymous with lighting of all periods and styles. Over the last 40 years, Wray has built up a beautiful personal collection of Victorian and Edwardian lighting and objects which he used to decorate the family home in Putney.

"This sale reflects my move towards a more modern lifestyle. My wife and I spent 30 happy years in the family home on Putney Heath which we filled with some of the best examples of Victorian and Edwardian period accessories and furniture. Now all our children have left home, we are now moving to a modern apartment on the river and have decided to start afresh. I hope this sale will inspire a new generation of people to collect beautiful period accessories and furniture to have and enjoy in their homes."

Christopher Wray 2005

A diverse range of lighting and objects which filled Wray's Victorian house will be offered including a billiard table from 1836 which he acquired in Ireland and transported in pieces to London and rebuilt (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and the light above it from *circa* 1890 (estimate: £12,000-18,000); these were given pride of place in a room renovated as a pastiche of a gentleman's club. Amongst some of the lighting highlights includes a rare collection of nursery lamps in various animal figures including owls, pug dogs, cats, lions and elephants, with estimates ranging from £200 to £1,500 and several magnificent chandeliers, with estimates ranging from £800 to £10,000.

Christopher Wray's career has been a fascinating one; he began as an actor, but given the precarious nature of the business, his agent suggested that he also had a sideline and so, in the early 1960's, he began to deal in bric-a-brac at Chelsea Antiques Market. The best sellers on Wray's stall turned out to be the old oil lamps which he had bought in country and electrified, these lamps became very popular in London and were soon to be seen on the pine dressers in every fashionable kitchen or dining room of the time. The Chelsea Antiques Market was at the epicentre of the swinging 60s in London and amongst those frequenting his stall included many well-known names such as Twiggy, Dusty Springfield, Justin de Villeneuve and Terence Conran.

Having begun with a stall in an antiques market, Christopher Wray opened his first shop at the west end of the King's Road in London's Chelsea. Further success led to opening of many more shops; firstly at the former post office 600 King's Road, then to the purpose-built, three-floored showroom (once termed 'the Emporium') at 591-593 King's Road and later, to other branches around the country.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

Viewing: Saturday 2nd – Wednesday 6th July 2005

Auction: Wednesday, 6 July 2005 at 10.30am

For all other matters regarding Christopher Wray, please contact Bridget Graham at BGPR on
Tel: 020 7751 0094 or email: bridget@bgpr.co.uk

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road

Opening hours:

Monday - 9am to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Open for Weekend Shopping on Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays.

The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales more often than any other auction house.

Christie's South Kensington is now open seven days a week with regular new sales on Sundays. The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. With prices ranging from £200 to over £20,000, the average price at Christie's South Kensington is £1,000. Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection.