

For Immediate Release

16 May 2006

Contact: Christina Freyberg 0207 389 2117 cfreyberg@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S COUNTRY HOUSE SALE IN NORTH WALES

Contents from four great private houses in North Wales and Cheshire to be sold in situ at Gyrn Castle in North Wales

The Gyrn Castle Sale, North Wales

**Property from Gyrn Castle, Nantlys, Mostyn Hall and Capesthorpe Hall
17 and 18 July 2006**



Llanasa, North Wales – Gyrn Castle in North Wales will be the spectacular setting for Christie's classic country house sale which will take place over two days on 17 and 18 July 2006. This fabulous sale combines contents from four great private houses in North Wales and Cheshire. Over 800 hundred lots will be offered from three historic Welsh houses located coincidentally close to each other - Gyrn Castle, home of the ship-owning Bates family; Nantlys, home of the Pennant family and Mostyn Hall, home of the Mostyn family, as well as selected contents from the attic of Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire, home of the

Bromley-Davenport family. It will be a fantastic opportunity for collectors and country house enthusiasts to acquire wonderful works of art each with a fascinating provenance.

The selection of contents offered from each of the four houses reflect the broad range of traditional country house taste and interests of each of the families, with many items collected during the 18th and 19th centuries. Highlights include a variety of good English and Welsh furniture, European paintings, early British portraits, and sporting art alongside traditional family silver and ancient arms and armour. Country pursuits feature strongly throughout the sale and among the many items can be found antlers of varying sizes, stuffed birds, fishing rods and even wooden decoy ducks.

Gyrn Castle was acquired by the prominent ship owner Sir Edward Bates in 1856 as a country house based close enough to Liverpool for him to continue managing and expanding his successful



shipping company. The sale at Gyrn follows the recent death of his descendant Sir Geoffrey Bates, M.C., 5th Bt. Among the contents offered are an extremely unusual group of late 15th or early 16th century carved wood figures of apostles, *The Gyrn Apostles*, approx two feet high. Research indicates that four are probably Netherlandish, and the other eight are either English or Welsh (sold as five separate lots with estimates ranging from £2,000 to £25,000). Two magnificent French salon



paintings by 19th century painter Auguste Bonheur, the brother of Rosa Bonheur, also feature. The larger of the two, *La Sortie du Paturage*, 1860 (estimate: £30,000-50,000) depicts a rural scene of a farmer driving his cattle to market, while *Le Combat; Souvenir des Pyrenees*, 1862 (estimate: £20,000-30,000) shows a bullfight set in a dramatic backdrop high in the Pyrenees.

Many of the contents offered from Gyrn reflect the interests and activities of successive generations ranging from maritime pictures and Indian pursuits such as a charming oil on canvas of an century, (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Good feature in the sale including a set of eighteen Davies, Cabinetmakers, Rhyl (estimate: £10,000- spoon, 19th century (estimate: £1,000-2,000). Regency mahogany extending dining table, circa



works of art to more traditional outdoors Arab Grey by Henry Bernard Chalon, 19th examples of Welsh craftsmanship also Welsh dining chairs by Rhydwen Jones & 15,000) and an unusual Welsh treen love Other furniture highlights include a 1825 (estimate: £15,000-20,000).

Nantlys was built in the early 1870s for a branch of the great Welsh antiquarian family of Pennant, with successive generations adding contents from other houses through marriage and inheritance. A selection of items will be offered from this house including a Regency mahogany breakfront bookcase, possibly by Gillows (estimate: £20,000-30,000), and a superb mid-Victorian giltwood and gilt-composition specimen marble-topped centre table (estimate: £15,000-25,000). A late 19th century painted rocking horse (estimate: £300-500) also features as well as a strong group of family silver including a Victorian silver soup tureen, cover and liner, mark of John Samuel Hunt, London, 1849 (estimate: £3,000-5,000). Paintings include a family *Portrait of Peter Pennant*, English School, 18th century (estimate: £3,000-5,000).



Like Gyrn Castle, **Mostyn Hall** overlooks the Dee Estuary. The house has been the home of the Mostyn family since the 15th century and part of the accumulated attic contents are being offered in the sale. Among the paintings is a late 17th century Dutch landscape by follower of Jacob Grimmer entitled *A Frozen river landscape with cottages and figures* (estimate: £3,000-4,000) and a number of family

portraits. Among the furniture highlights are a Welsh oak tridarn, early 18th century (estimate: £2,000-4,000) and an early George III mahogany writing table, mid 18th century (estimate: £5,000-8,000). More unusual items from this house include a rhinoceros trophy head, circa 1900 (estimate: £500-1,000).



Among the treasures from the attic of **Capesthorne Hall** in Cheshire are a number of paintings which were collected during the Grand Tour, including a set of eight gouaches by Giuseppe Giampedi of Italian classical buildings and landmarks (estimate: £8,000-12,000). The sale also features a striking portrait attributed to James Ward, RA and Sir William Beechey RA of *Leopold I, King of the Belgians, on a grey charger* (£25,000-40,000). The furniture in this section reflects the wide ranging tastes of the family and includes a pair of Regency ormolu-mounted and brass inlaid low bookcases (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and a pair of painted canvas four-fold screens (estimate: £20,000-30,000). An early 17th century English Pikeman's armour, circa 1640 (estimate: £3,000-3,500) completes the fascinating selection of items from this historic attic.

The contents of the sale will be on view at Gyrn Castle from Friday 14 July until Sunday 16 July 2006. The sale will take place in a marquee on the lawn in front of Gyrn Castle on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 July 2006. The auction is expected to realize in the region of £1 million.

###

Images available on request

Visit Christie's website at www.christies.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Location:

Gyrn Castle, Llanasa, North Wales

Public Viewing and Opening Times (entrance by catalogue):

Friday 14 July 2006 10am – 6pm

Saturday 15 July 2006 10am – 6pm

Sunday 16 July 2006 10am – 4pm

Sale Date:

Monday 17 July 2006 10.30am

Tuesday 18 July 2006 10.30am

Catalogue:

Available from mid-June Orders: 020 7389 2820

Press Day – Thursday 13 July 2006

To register to attend the press day contact Christie's Press Office on 0207 389 2664.