

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO SELL THE CONTENTS OF ENDSLEIGH HOUSE, DEVON

Furniture, Pictures and Works of Art Originally Commissioned by John, 6th Duke of Bedford for his rural idyll, the picturesque Endsleigh, to be Sold in situ at Woburn Abbey this September

Property from Two Ducal Collections

Christie's at Woburn, Bedfordshire

20 and 21 September 2004

London – Christie's is delighted to have been instructed to sell items from Endsleigh, Near Tavistock, Devon, which will be offered as part of the sale *Property from Two Ducal Collections, Christie's at Woburn, Bedfordshire*, on 20 and 21 September 2004, in situ at Woburn Abbey. Endsleigh was built in 1810 for Georgiana, the second wife of John, 6th Duke of Bedford (d.1839). The beautiful villa described as 'a uniquely complete example of the Picturesque taste' was dressed as an antiquarian 'cottage orne'. The house remained a favourite family retreat up until the time of Hastings, 12th Duke of Bedford. It was purchased by Endsleigh Fishing Club in 1962.

"Christie's is staging the auction of 130 items from Endsleigh as part of the sale at Woburn, to present furniture and household effects that were originally designed for Endsleigh during the Regency period, alongside a diverse selection of objects used, collected and stored by generations of the Russell family at Woburn Abbey," says Andrew Waters, Director of Christie's Collections Department. "With the vast majority of lots valued at a few hundred pounds, this is a unique opportunity for Country House enthusiasts to enjoy the perfect day out at Woburn – and bring home a souvenir."

John, 6th Duke of Bedford commissioned Humphrey Repton to landscape the grounds and Jeffry Wyatt to design the Devon 'cottage' retreat in 1810; shortly before he commissioned Wyatt to convert the greenhouse designed by Henry Holland into the famous sculpture gallery at Woburn, in which the auction for the forthcoming sale will be staged. The family spent happy holidays together at

Endsleigh, with the River Tamar providing excellent salmon fishing and canoeing opportunities. The latter was particularly enjoyed by Mary, wife of Herbrand, 11th Duke, known as 'The Flying Duchess'.

Furniture highlights from Endsleigh include a number of pieces that were designed by Jeffry Wyatt, *circa* 1815. These comprise a Regency oak side table (estimate: £30,000-50,000), a Regency oak gothic library table, attributed to the furniture maker, Gillows (estimate: £30,000-50,000), and a set of twelve Regency oak dining chairs, (estimate: £30,000-50,000). The sale also boasts a group of furniture that recent research has been able to establish are made by the local craftsmen John Williams and Samuel Soper of Exeter, *circa* 1815, including a Regency oak extending dining-table, (estimate: £15,000-25,000), and an unusual Regency oak coaching table (estimate: £2,000-3,000). Furniture by the famous cabinet-maker George Bullock is also included in the sale.

Paintings in the sale include a watercolour of *Endsleigh Cottage, Devon* by Jeffry Wyatt (estimate: £10,000-15,000), and a pair of watercolour paintings, one depicting *Conway Castle, North Wales*, by John Glover (estimate: £4,000-6,000). An oil on canvas painted by Anna Maria, Duchess of Bedford when Marchioness of Tavistock, of her first child *William, Lord Russell*, also features (estimate: £800-1,200). Between 1832 and 1841, the Liberal William Russell held the position of MP for Tavistock.

Further highlights from Endsleigh include pictures of local scenes, including the river Tamar and Horseshoe Bridge and even a stuffed fish caught on the river Tamar in 1882 (estimate: £200-300).

*****For further information about the sale *Property from Two Ducal Collections, Christie's at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire*, please see separate press release*****

Press View Thursday 16 September at Woburn

Public View The pre-auction exhibition will be on public view at Woburn from 17-19 September

Catalogue An illustrated catalogue will be available approximately 4-5 weeks before the sale. Please telephone 020 7389 2820 for further details.

Auction 20 and 21 September, in the Sculpture Gallery at Woburn, Bedfordshire

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Images available on Request

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