

For Immediate Release

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PEARL OF A COLLECTION...

**ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS OF
JEWELLERY AND WATCHES TO BE OFFERED AT
CHRISTIE'S GENEVA IN NOVEMBER**

**Magnificent Collection of Jewellery and Watches from a Royal House
Tuesday, 14 November 2006**

Geneva – Christie's is pleased to offer one of the most important single owner collections of jewellery and watches ever to appear at auction, to be sold on 14 November in Geneva. Offered from a Royal House, the collection comprises 317 lots and is expected to realise in the region of \$20 million. Formed during the 1970s and 1980s, the collection includes a beautiful selection of natural pearls and diamonds together with numerous stylish examples of jewellery and watches created by the major jewellers of the day.

Natural Pearls

Perfected by nature and requiring nothing to enhance their beauty, pearls were the earliest gemstones known to man. This Royal collection is exceptionally strong in pearls and is led by the magnificent Gulf Pearl Suite by Harry Winston which is estimated to realise in excess of \$4 million. One of the finest ranges of drop pearls ever to appear at auction, the necklace is composed of 11 perfectly formed and graduated drop-shaped pearls weighing from approximately 30 to 124 grains each. The pearls are suspended from 4 alternating lines of brilliant and pear-shaped diamonds and round and drop-shaped pearls. The parure also includes a bracelet, earrings and ring.

120 years ago, a similar important arrangement of 7 large drop-shaped pearls strung from a single-row of pearls, once formed part of the French crown Jewels, was last sold in 1886. However the present necklace not only has more pearls but they are larger and far finer. It stands to reason that The Gulf Pearl Necklace would contain the finest pearls,

while those from non pearl producing countries would not have the same luxury of choice.

An eye-catching large button pearl of 21.5mm diameter, weighing 202.26 grains and an 8 row pearl necklace forms part of another spectacular pearl and diamond suite which is estimated at \$600,000 to \$800,000. Further the collection comprises a third parure, of pearls, diamonds and rubies, with central large drop shaped pearl of 195.02 grains (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) and 23 lots of pearl necklaces and parures which vary in value and size from \$10,000 to \$500,000 each. There are also several bags of un-mounted pearls one comprising 845 another approximately of 1,640 pearls and a single un-mounted pearl of 149.41 grains (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).

For thousands of years pearls were by far the most valuable of all the gemstones, until the invention of the cultured pearl in the 1920s. Prices crashed and pearls have never regained the same deep affection they once had. In recent years there has been far more interest shown, as people realise that a fine pearl is far rarer than a fine diamond or for that matter most other gems.

Diamonds of the Royal House Collection

An exquisite selection of diamonds also feature strongly in the collection which includes an important pear-shaped diamond of 21.37 carats, D Colour, VVS2 clarity (estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000) and a spectacular bracelet by Gerard which features a rectangular cut diamond of 29.01 carats, D Colour, VVS2 clarity (estimate: \$800,000-1,000,000). Also by Gerard is a diamond parure suspending a pear-shaped diamond of 13.99 carats, D Colour, VVS1 clarity (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) and another similar diamond parure set with a 13.61 carat, D Colour, VVS1 clarity, pear-shaped diamond (estimate: \$500,000-700,000).

Amongst the largest diamonds to be offered are a 32.48 carat, fancy intense yellow, internally flawless, radiant cut diamond (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) and a 37.21 carat brilliant cut light yellow diamond (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Other rare coloured diamonds include an attractive fancy intense orangey-pink diamond of 6.92 carats (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) and a magnificent parure of fancy yellow diamonds by Fred (estimate: \$800,000-1,000,000).

Four spectacular parures from the collection made by Van Cleef & Arpels, with total estimates of \$1,500,000-2,000,000, will be featured in the special Van Cleef & Arpels auction to be held two days later on 16 November in Geneva.

Important Wristwatches of the Royal House Collection

Monday, 13 November 2006

The collection also features many important gem set wristwatches by the most celebrated makers such as Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier, Audemars Piguet, Vacheron Constantin, Piaget, Chaumet, Winston, Tiffany, Boucheron, Gerard, Chopard, Van Cleef and others. The watches are in virtually unused condition and will be highly appealing to collectors worldwide.

A group of 48 lots comprising wristwatches with unusual dials or unusual 1970s case designs, some accompanied by accessories such as cufflinks or ring, will be offered in the sale of *Important Pocket watches and Wristwatches* in Geneva on 13 November. 124 lots of mostly highly gem set watches which are particularly attractive for the Asian market, will be offered in the Hong Kong sale of *Important Watches* on 28 November 2006.

There are many more high value items included in this extensive property making it one of the most important single owner collections ever to have been offered at auction. Christie's is the only auction house to have sold any single owner jewellery collection above \$12 Million: two collections over \$12 million and one above \$20 million.

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A selection of images is available on request

Exhibitions

Hong Kong	4-5 September 2006
Milan	28-29 September 2006
New York	7-11 October 2006
Athens	18-19 October 2006
Dubai	30-31 October 2006

Public Viewing in Geneva

Important Watches: Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 November 2006

Magnificent Jewellery: Saturday 11- Monday 13 November 2006

One collection - four sales in Geneva and Hong Kong

GENEVA

- Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches - Monday 13 November 2006
- Magnificent Collection of jewellery and watches from a Royal House - Tuesday 14 November 2006
- Van Cleef & Arpels: A Centenary Tribute - Thursday 16 November 2006

HONG KONG

- Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches - Tuesday 28 November 2006 in Hong Kong

Notes to Editors:

Christie's is the world market leader in jewellery auctions with a worldwide sale total of \$278.7 million in 2005. Christie's holds major jewellery sales in Geneva, Hong Kong, London, New York and Paris. Many world auction records for jewellery have been achieved by Christie's including the record for *La Régente*, a highly important pearl of incredible size and weight, 302.68 grains, was given by Emperor Napoleon I (1769-1821) to his second wife Marie-Louise in 1811, sold in November 2005 for \$2.5 million, the highest price ever paid for a single pearl. The world record price for a pearl necklace was set by Christie's which sold for \$3.1 million in Geneva in November 2004. Christie's jewellery sales cater to a vast audience of international collectors looking to buy a range of magnificent jewellery, from a single pair of ruby cufflinks to a 100 carat diamond ring.