

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK PRESENTS A STUNNING  
SELECTION OF ANTIQUITIES AND ANCIENT JEWELRY  
ON DECEMBER 9**

**Antiquities and Ancient Jewelry**

**December 9, 2009**

**New York** – Christie's is pleased to announce the fall sales of *Antiquities* and the tenth annual *Ancient Jewelry* sale, on December 9. Both sales will offer a strong selection of works, from sculptures to wearable ancient art representing Egypt, the Near East, Greece and Rome. With estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$700,000, both sales are expected to achieve in the region of \$7.5 million.

**Antiquities**



Leading the *Antiquities* sale is an impressive Roman marble statue of the Emperor Hadrian, circa 117-138 A.D., (*illustrated left*- estimate: \$350,000-550,000). During his succession, Hadrian initiated an unparalleled building program throughout the Empire. In Rome, he built the Pantheon in the Campus Martius, the Temple of Venus in the Forum, and his own Mausoleum, now known as the Castel Sant' Angelo. The statue offered was originally in the Villa Montalto-Negrone-Massimi in Rome and was later acquired in the late 18th century by John Bligh, 4th Earl of Darnley, for his home Cobham Hall in Kent, England. Other notable sculpture includes a Roman marble portrait bust of the Empress Faustina Minor, circa 162 A.D. (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) and a Roman marble figure of a woman, circa 1st -

2nd century A.D., exquisitely carved with fine attention to folds of her crinkly floor-length tunic (estimate: \$250,000-350,000).

The sale's cover lot is a fantastic Egyptian black granite bust of an official, circa 4<sup>th</sup>- early 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C., (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). A partially preserved inscription on the back pillar informs that the official served as a Treasurer of Lower Egypt. His high status in ancient Egyptian society gave him access to expensive materials and top tier artists as demonstrated by the high quality of his portrait.

Further highlights include an early Christian silver paten, circa late 4<sup>th</sup>- early 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$600,000-800,000), which is hammered from a single sheet that meticulously illustrates Christ, Peter and Paul each clad in a short-sleeved tunic; an over life-sized and a realistic Roman bronze portrait head of the Emperor Vespasian, circa mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., (estimate: \$700,000-900,000), and a Bactrian copper alloy seated female figure, circa late 3<sup>rd</sup> –early 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C. (estimate: \$70,000-90,000), one of the largest and finest copper alloy figures known from Western Central Asia.



## Ancient Jewelry



Christie's tenth annual sale of *Ancient Jewelry* will offer over 120 lots of wearable works of art including beaded necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and ancient stone rings, with many examples in their original settings and others in modern mounts. The sale's top lot is a pair of Greek gold bracelets, Hellenistic period, circa late 4<sup>th</sup>- early 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. (*illustrated left*- estimate: \$80,000-120,000). With a lion head on each terminal, the bracelets are exceptional in terms of scale, quality and condition with a style closely paralleled in Tarentine and other South Italian jewelry.

Ancient ring stones are well represented in the sale, some loose, while others are mounted as a ring, either in the original or a modern setting. The finest is an Etruscan carnelian scarab and gold finger ring, circa late 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C., (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$25,000-35,000). The underside of this impressive scarab is finely engraved with the hero Bellerophon riding the winged horse Pegasus, and spearing the Chimaera, depicted as a lion with its head turned back.



Also of great interest are a pair of Neo-Assyrian gold earrings, circa 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (estimate: \$45,000-65,000); a necklace of twelve Roman ringstones, circa 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.- 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.; and a Roman gold snake ring, circa 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.- 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. (estimate: \$4,000-6,000).

**Auction: Antiquities**

**Ancient Jewelry**

**December 9, 10 am**

**December 9, 2 pm**

**Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries**

**December 5-8**

### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available on request*

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