

For Immediate Release

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A SPARKLING WONDERLAND OF JEWELLERY AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN DECEMBER

Magnificent Jewels

Wednesday, 12 December 2007 at 11.00am



London - Exquisite jewellery of Royal provenance, exceptional craftsmanship and dazzling beauty provide a sparkling wonderland of **Magnificent Jewels** at Christie's London on Wednesday, 12 December 2007. A 17.62 carat pear-shaped diamond pendant of the highest color and clarity (estimate: £800,000-1,000,000) *illustrated left* and a Flawless 10.71 carat diamond ring lead the array of dream diamonds. This is a rare opportunity to choose from four prized Kashmir sapphires, including an important 25.66 carat sapphire and diamond brooch by Jirgens (estimate: £230,000-280,000). Featuring 241 lots, with estimates ranging from £2,000 to £1,000,000, the sale is expected to realise in excess of £7million.

Jewels of extraordinary Royal provenance include the splendour of Marie Antoinette's pearls set in an important natural pearl, diamond and ruby necklace (estimate: £350,000-400,000), eight pieces of jewellery ***Formerly the Property of Anita Delgado (1890-1962), fifth wife of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala*** and a group of jewellery ***From the Collection of the Late The Honourable Mrs Angela Lascelles***, with an attractive diamond and pearl necklace, *circa* 1880 (estimate: £18,000-25,000).

Dream Diamonds

Taking centre stage of the glittering diamonds is a very important 17.62 carat, D Flawless diamond pendant (estimate: £800,000-1,000,000) *illustrated above*. The pear-shaped diamond is cut to perfection, with excellent symmetry and polish. The combination of mesmerizing natural flawlessness, attractive, well proportioned drop-shape and quality of execution make this an extraordinary stone, rarely seen on the international market. Further exemplary diamonds offered include a 10.71 carat, D Flawless (estimate: £400,000-500,000) and a highly desirable 8.79 carat potentially flawless D colour solitaire diamond ring by Harry Winston (estimate: £200,000-250,000) *illustrated right*.



Kashmir Sapphires



Christie's are pleased to offer an unusual opportunity to choose from four Kashmir sapphires. An important 25.66 carat sapphire and diamond brooch by Jirgens (estimate: £230,000-280,000) *illustrated left*, sets the exceptional standard. The striking design of the frosted rock crystal snowflake mount was inspired by Jirgen's love for St. Moritz. Containing approximately 360 diamonds this is an alluringly dramatic piece. A fine sapphire and diamond ring, with a central 5.71 carat sapphire (estimate: £50,000-60,000) and an enchanting Belle Époque 5.57 carat sapphire and diamond cluster ring, *circa* 1905 (estimate: £40,000-50,000), provide unusual, elegant adornment for the most graceful of hands.

Kashmir sapphires are amongst the most desired stones and many of the finest examples that come on the market today emanate from pieces of antique jewellery. Since the mines closed in 1925 production has remained practically non-existent and the appearance of these sapphires is likely to generate considerable interest.

The Royal Splendour of Marie Antoinette's Pearls

One of the leading jewellery highlights of the winter season, *The Property of a Nobleman*, this historically important natural pearl, diamond and ruby necklace (estimate: £350,000-£400,000), of extraordinary provenance, has never been offered at auction before. The pearls have been in the same family for over 200 years.



"It is exceptionally rare to be able to offer jewels that belonged to Marie Antoinette and which are completely fresh to the market. The story behind the pearls and their integral incorporation into this necklace for the Sutherland-Leveson-Gower family wedding in 1849 adds to the fascinating history of this necklace," said Raymond Sancroft-Baker, Senior Director of Christie's Jewellery, London.



This elegant necklace which was made in 1849 has a fringe of twenty one graduated drop-shaped grey natural pearls, each suspended from an old-cut diamond collet surmount to the diamond ribbon which intertwines the ruby collar. The collar is set with twelve button-shaped grey natural pearls which are mounted in gold. The pearls, which date to *circa* 1780, belonged to Marie Antoinette, the last Queen of France whose name is synonymous with extreme extravagance and for her death by guillotine at the height of the French Revolution in 1793 on the precept of treason. These sumptuous pearls were given by Marie Antoinette to Lady Sutherland, Elizabeth Leveson-Gower, the wife of the British ambassador (1790-92) Lord George Leveson-Gower. ***For full details please see separate press release.***

Formerly the Property of Anita Delgado (1890-1962), Fifth Wife of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala



Elegant beauty and fairytale romance unite with eight pieces of jewellery *Formerly the Property of Anita Delgado (1890-1962), fifth wife of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala*. The tale of Anita Delgado could have been written by the best of storytellers; however it is fact, not fiction. Born in Malaga in 1890, to a respectable yet modest family of restaurateurs, the young Anita could never have dreamt of the life of a maharani that lay ahead. With estimates ranging from £5,000 to £100,000 these marvellous jewels are expected to realise a total in excess of £200,000.

"The collection typifies the Art Deco style at its most dramatic, with strong, angular designs on a large scale,"
David Warren, Christie's Director of Jewellery, London. *"These jewels are a symbol of cross-cultural love and taste, bringing together Indian princely patronage with the finest European craftsmanship and design,"* **Dr. Amin Jaffer, Christie's International Director of Asian Art.**



Consisting predominantly of Art Deco pieces all of these jewels were designed and mounted in Europe, with diamonds and emeralds from the Maharaja's collection. This is not surprising as the Maharaja, who was known for his exceptionally extravagant taste, was particularly fond of all things European, even commissioning a palace inspired by Versailles and the Louvre. The star lot is a stunning Art Deco emerald, diamond and rock crystal necklace (estimate: £70,000-100,000) *illustrated left*. The jewel which tells the most personal story is a remarkable Belle Époque emerald and diamond brooch, *circa 1910* (estimate: £20,000-30,000) *illustrated above left*.

For full details on all of the eight pieces to be offered please see separate press release.

From Angela Lascelles with Love

Eight charming jewels from *The Collection of the Late The Honourable Mrs Angela Lascelles* range in estimate from £3,000 to £25,000. They provide a wonderful chance to experience the glamour and beauty of a member and friend of the British Royal family. Angela Lascelles (1919-2007) was married to the Hon. Gerald Lascelles (1924-1998), a first cousin of Her Majesty The Queen and the younger son of the 6th Earl of Harewood (1882-1947) and Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, The Princess Royal (1897-1965), the only daughter of H.M. King George V (1865-1936).





The star lot within this collection is an enchanting diamond and pearl necklace with diamond bows interspersed with diamond floral clusters, each with central pearl (estimate: £18,000-25,000) *illustrated left*. Made *circa* 1880, this necklace captivates the magnificent grace of a gentele period. Exemplifying the intricate floral designs of Lacloche, an exquisite diamond, ruby and onyx brooch is estimated to realise between £10,000 and £15,000. A gift from Queen Mary to Angela Lascelles in 1952, the year of her wedding to the Hon. Gerald Lascelles, it is likely that this was Queen Mary's wedding gift to the couple. Lacloche was renowned for divine snuff boxes, vanity cases, lipstick holders and powder compacts, as well as bracelets and brooches which were often strongly influenced by the Japanese style using jade, mother-of-pearl, lacquer, coral and enamel. Another Art Deco brooch to be offered is made of jade and diamonds, *circa* 1925 (estimate: £4,000-6,000).

Other pieces from the Angela Lascelles collection comprise a delightful diamond and pearl swan brooch, *circa* 1870 (estimate: £5,000-7,000), a cultured pearl and diamond bracelet/brooch, *circa* 1870 (estimate: £5,000-7,000), an attractive pair of Art Deco diamond and pearl ear pendants, *circa* 1925 (estimate: £30,000-5,000) and a late 18th century diamond ring (estimate: £3,000-5,000).

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A selection of images is available on request*

Notes to Editors:

Auction:

Magnificent Jewellery, Christie's King Street on Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 11am

Public Viewing: Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT

- Sunday, 9 December 12noon-5.00pm
- Monday, 10 December 9.00am-5.00pm
- Tuesday, 11 December 9.00am-8.00pm

CHRISTIE'S – JEWELLERY MARKET LEADERS SINCE 1994

Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for over 13 years, with sales totalling a record \$355 million in 2006, a 27% increase from 2005 and the highest sales total ever realised. Christie's jewellery auctions take place in Amsterdam, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Milan, New York, Paris and St Moritz, and cater to a vast audience of international collectors looking to buy a range of magnificent jewellery, from a single pair of ruby-inlaid cufflinks to a 100 carat diamond. Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets, including the inaugural jewellery sale in the Middle East in January 2007 in Dubai.