

Contact: Leonie Ashfield

020 7752 3121

lashfield@christies.com

PIPE UP AND BID AT CHRISTIE'S IN SEPTEMBER



Trevor Barton pictured with a small selection from his collection.

The Trevor Barton Collection of Unusual Smoking Pipes

To be included in the *Interiors: Masters & Makers* sale at Christie's South Kensington on 22 September 2010

Trevor Barton (1920-2008) bought his first pipe as a young man in 1947 – a Tyrolean pipe with porcelain bowl – a purchase which led to more than fifty years of passionate pipe collecting. This culminated in Mr Barton being honoured with membership of the exclusive *Academie Internationale de la Pipe*, as recognition of his vast knowledge on the subject. Trevor Barton assembled an extraordinary collection of hundreds of pipes from across the globe, together with other smoking-related items and an impressive library on the subject. Christie's is delighted to be offering a selection of over 120 lots from this superb collection within the *Interiors: Masters & Makers* sale, at South Kensington on 21 September 2010, with estimates ranging from £300 to £2,000. The collection is expected to realise in the region of £100,000. Pipe smoking is the oldest and most traditional form of smoking, synonymous with fictional characters such as Sherlock Holmes, and popular with important historical figures such as Einstein and Harold Wilson, among others. The collection will be featured the day following the traditional mix of early oak furniture, works of art, sculpture, metal ware and textiles that is sold in Christie's Interiors: Masters & Makers sales.

Trevor Barton's son, the vendor, remembers, "*My father's collection was generally considered to be one of the finest and most wide-ranging collections of pipes and tobacco-related items in the world. As he built the collection, he became particularly interested in tribal items, and was a globally respected authority on the history of smoking. He welcomed all who wished to visit our home and see the collection. He made many good friends all over the world through his hobby and was very proud to be a member of the Academie Internationale de la Pipe.*"




The majority of Mr Barton’s collection was acquired at home in the UK where Barton was known as “The Pipe Man”; he regularly left home before dawn on Fridays to scour Bermondsey market and was a familiar face on the Portobello Road on Saturday mornings. However, his work in the domestic appliance industry involved much overseas travel, enabling him to also purchase several rare pipes abroad. The auction on 21 September will offer a representative selection of pipes from his collection, demonstrating its high quality and diversity.

Amongst the Native American highlights are several argillite pipes from the Haida of the Northwest Coast of America, some depicting totemic animals and others with European figures and boats (estimates: £300-800). A fine Catlinite pipe and stem offered in the sale was reputedly once owned by Chief Sitting Bull, and is said to have been acquired from the collection of the Victorian actor, Henry Irving (estimate: £1,000-1,500). Several fine Nguni pipes from southern Africa date from the 19th century, with some finely inlaid with lead depicting objects such as clocks, cannons and trains (estimates: £300-600) and others more traditionally carved with human figures (estimate: £600-1,200).

The European section of pipes includes those created in Meerschaum, pottery, porcelain, carved wood and other materials, together with smoking ephemera such as tobacco boxes, carved wood pipe cases and unusual large tobacco advertising figures in carved wood (earliest example estimate: £1,200-1,800) *illustrated page one*. Of particular note are some fine late 19th century Austrian Meerschaum pipes, including the top lot of the collection - a large Negro-head pipe (estimate: £2,000-2,500). The pottery selection includes some rare Staffordshire ‘pratt-ware’ coiled pipes dating from the 18th century (with estimates up to £1,500). The Asian portion not only includes Chinese opium pipes, but also a beautiful ivory pipe case from Sri Lanka, finely pierced and carved with foliage, surmounted by a carved lion (estimate: £1,000-1,500), as well as several pipes from the Naga of India (estimates: £500-800).

Trevor Barton’s large library of smoking-related books will be offered in the same sale, and includes a superb group of boxes containing the original descriptions and illustrations of the pipe collection of William Bragge, Master Cutler of Sheffield. The Bragge Pipe Collection, which comprised more than 6,000 pipes, was exhibited at *Birmingham Midland Institute* in 1870 and at the *South Kensington International Exhibition* in 1873. There are more than 400 of the original cards in the lot, the majority with exquisite pen or pen and wash drawings (estimate: £2,000-4,000).

	
Three Naga pipes (one illustrated) Estimate: £500-800	An Inuit ivory pipe Estimate: £800-1,200

	
An Austrian Meerschaum pipe Estimate: £2,000-2,500	An East African pipe with mounted camel Estimate: £400-600
	
Three Dutch teeren pipe cases (one illustrated), 18 th century Estimate: £800-1,200	An Austrian Meerschaum pipe, mid-19 th century Estimate: £1,000-1,500

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High resolution images and interviews available upon request

Notes to Editors:

Public Viewing: Saturday 18 September: 11.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 19 September: 11.00am - 5.00pm
Monday 20 September: 9.00am - 7.30pm
Tuesday 21 September: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday 22 September 9.00am – 1.00pm

Auction: Wednesday, 22 September at 2pm

Ecatalogue: Available online from mid-August 2010 at www.christies.com/calendar

Christie's South Kensington

Christie's South Kensington caters for every collector – from the seasoned connoisseur to those discovering the pleasure of buying at auction for the first time. Specialised sales are broken down into individual departments. Sales are usually held twice a year dependent on category, offering rare and important works of art, decorative objects and collectibles ranging from Old Master and 19th Century Art to Popular Culture Memorabilia. Interiors sales and single owner collections are held more regularly and encapsulate a wide-range of categories in one sale. With items usually offered at a lower price point these sales often appeal to those buying items for the home. Every item featured in a Christie's sale is valued and fully researched by our experienced experts who possess extensive knowledge of the market and their specialist areas. Trade and private buyers alike are drawn to the welcoming and brightly lit saleroom in South Kensington by the treasures on offer throughout the sales calendar year.

Interiors Sales

The Interiors sales offer the ultimate opportunity to source a diverse and eclectic selection of home furnishings with an extensive selection of lots in each sale including everything from ceramics and textiles to furniture and

lighting, each piece defined by its inherent value and design integrity. Designed to satisfy the demands of everyone from the first time buyer and aspiring interior decorator to the seasoned collector, Christie's Interiors offers weekly sales open to all which boast Monday late night and Sunday viewings, approximately 400 lots per week and estimates starting from £300. Each sale presents a distinctive and unique range of property thoroughly researched by an experienced global team of specialists to ensure each piece offers genuine authenticity and provenance so buyers in pursuit of originality, beauty and craftsmanship can always be assured of a unique purchase. *Further information available.

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

OPENING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

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Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

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