

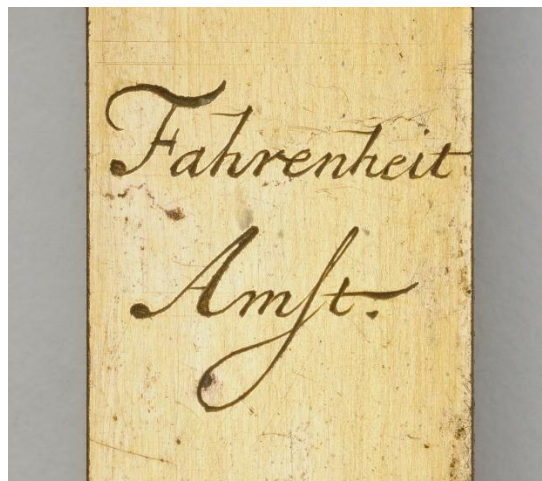
# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | South Kensington | 23 August 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TEMPERATURES SET TO RISE AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

Recently Discovered Thermometer By Fahrenheit Set to Fetch Over £70,000

ONE OF ONLY THREE IN EXISTENCE, IT IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE IN PRIVATE HANDS



**South Kensington, London** – Christie's is proud to announce that an original mercury thermometer, invented by Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit in 1714 and the only remaining example in private hands, is to be offered at auction in October 2012. One of only three thermometers ever created by the famous physicist, the others are owned by *Museum Boerhaave*, in Leiden, the Netherlands, and until recently, these were thought to be the only examples in existence. When offered at auction within Christie's sale of TRAVEL, SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY including the Polar Sale to commemorate the Scott Centenary, 1912-2012 on 9 October 2012, the thermometer is expected to fetch between £70,000 and £100,000.

**James Hyslop, Scientific Specialist, Christie's** commented, *"It is very exciting to be able to offer at auction such an incredibly important scientific instrument, and one which collectors would never have believed would come to market. Inscribed on the back by Fahrenheit himself, this is an exceptional piece which has no precedent, and which I expect to cause a real buzz with connoisseurs and institutions on every continent around the globe."*

## Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (24 May 1686 – 16 September 1736)

A household name during his lifetime and even more so in the centuries since, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit was a physicist, engineer, and glass blower, best known for the temperature scale bearing his name which is still used today in many countries, as well as for his improvements on the mercury thermometer (1714). Born in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, he spent most of his life in the Dutch Republic. At the age of fifteen, following the death of his parents through mushroom poisoning, Fahrenheit began training as a chemist, and his personal interest in natural science led to his studies and experimentation in the field.

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**The complete eCatalogue will be available to view online from September 2012 at [www.christies.com/calendar](http://www.christies.com/calendar)**

### **Public Exhibition:**

Saturday, 6 October: 11.00am – 5.00pm  
Sunday, 7 October: 11.00am – 5.00pm  
Monday, 8 October: 9.00am – 7.30pm

### **Auction:**

TRAVEL, SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY  
including the Polar Sale to commemorate the Scott Centenary, 1912-2012  
9 October 2012 at 10.30am

### **Christie's South Kensington**

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £300. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million / \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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*High resolution images and further information available on request*

*Visit Christie's Website at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

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**CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON**

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