

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON
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PRINCE PHILIP CONQUERS THE SEAS IN RARE SAILING PICTURE AT CHRISTIE'S

ROYAL PORTRAIT SURFACES AT SOUTH KENSINGTON AFTER 40 YEARS
IN CANADIAN PRIVATE COLLECTION



Montague Dawson, F.R.S.A., R.S.M.A.

H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and Uffa Fox Esq. racing on the Duke's Flying Fifteen Coveslip at Cowes, with the Royal Yacht Britannia, dressed overall and lying at anchor in Cowes Roads, off her starboard bow

Estimate: £100,000 – 150,000

South Kensington, London – Christie's will offer a striking and rare painting of H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh racing one of his best-loved sailing boats at the *Maritime Art* sale on 12 June. The oil painting by Montague Dawson shows Prince Philip sailing *Coveslip*, a two-person boat known as a Flying Fifteen, with the Royal Yacht Britannia anchored in the distance. Estimated to fetch between £100,000 and £150,000, it evokes the thrill of racing on a fine, blustery day at Cowes. The painting is among 146 lots estimated to realise a total of around £1.5 million.

Jane Turner, Specialist in Maritime Paintings and Watercolors said: "Prince Philip was a keen sailor and this painting shows his skilled manoeuvring of the boat. It is extremely rare to find a work of this kind featuring a Royal and it is a great pleasure to offer such a fine example as the top lot in the upcoming *Maritime Art* sale. Montague Dawson was one of the greatest marine artists of the 20th Century, counting two American Presidents and the British Royal family among his patrons. In this painting he really captures the speed and exhilaration of the race. From 17th Century battles to 20th century regattas, this sale presents a fantastic opportunity for buyers to add to their prized collections. With prices starting at £1,000, the works will appeal to those new to Christie's as well as seasoned collectors."

H.R.H. Prince Philip's love of the sea was instilled at an early age. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 as an officer cadet, serving until 1952 when his career came to an end on the untimely death of his father-in-law, King George VI. As well as serving his country, Prince Philip also sailed for pleasure, competing in regattas at Cowes. He regularly attended Cowes Week with the Queen on board the H.M.Y. Britannia, depicted in the painting above. The Duke of Edinburgh's affection for sailing is still as strong now as it was in 1948, when he was elected as a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. He currently holds the position of Admiral of the Royal Yacht Squadron, as well as Patron of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London.

The Duke competed in many races in *Coveslip*, gaining a second place in the Britannia Cup in 1952, a second place in Cowes Week in 1953 and a second and third place in Cowes Week, 1963. The 20-foot long boat was designed by the legendary Uffa Fox of Cowes in 1948. In the summer of 1949, Uffa met the Duke of Edinburgh, at a yacht club dinner, whilst they were both competing in the Dragon class at Cowes. Uffa invited the Duke to visit his yard the next day to see his latest creation, 'The Flying Fifteen'. Their friendship flourished when, later that year, the people of Cowes presented *Coveslip* to the then Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Coveslip was lucky to survive the years. On one occasion in 1962, the boat nearly sank when she was hit by a gust of wind and capsized, throwing both Uffa and the Duke into the water. This painting by Montague Dawson honours the importance of *Coveslip* in Prince Philip's sailing career.

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Public Exhibition:

Saturday 8 June, 11.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday 9 June, 11.00am – 5.00pm

Monday 10 June, 9.00am - 7:30pm

Tuesday 11 June, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Auction:

Maritime Art

Wednesday 12 June, 2013

2.00pm

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 under £1,000. 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 Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others. In 2012 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the third consecutive year with sales of £139.4 million / \$223.1 million having welcomed a 10% growth in registered bidders and a 20% increase (£ / \$) in total sales.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last 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 in growth markets such as Russia, China,

India and the Middle East, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives in Moscow, Baku, Beijing, Mumbai, Delhi, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha 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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