

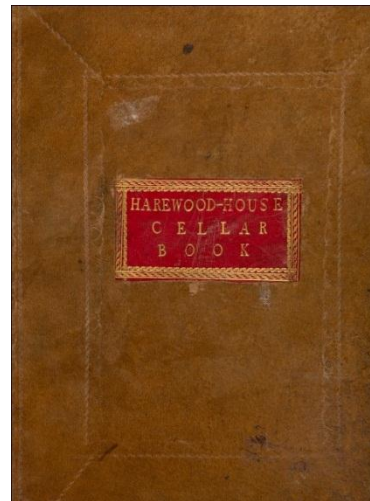
# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4 December 2013

## THE OLDEST RUM EVER OFFERED AT AUCTION

### To Be Sold at Christie's London in December

From The Cellar of Harewood House  
All Proceeds to Benefit the Geraldine Connor Foundation



**London** – Christie's is pleased to announce that a selection of the oldest rum ever offered at auction will be presented at the *Finest and Rarest Wines and Spirits including Rare Madeira* sale on the 12 & 13 December 2013. Recently rediscovered in the cellar of Harewood House in Leeds, the historic collection comprises 12 bottles of 'Light' and 'Dark' Rum, which date back to 1780. The exceptional provenance and quality of these spirits provide international connoisseurs and enthusiasts around the world with a rare opportunity. The collection is expected to realise in the region of £12,000.

**David Elswood, International Director of Christie's Wine in Europe and Asia** said:


*"Christie's is delighted to be offering this rare and unique 1780 rum from Harewood House - the oldest we have ever seen and at 230 years of age, just 14 years younger than Christie's wine auctions which commenced in 1766"*

The proceeds from this outstanding collection will go towards the Geraldine Connor Foundation, established in 2012 to continue her inspirational work, as a teacher, with disenfranchised young people in the performing arts. Born in Britain, raised in Trinidad, Connor was a major figure in Yorkshire's West Indian community, heavily involved in carnival and the Steel band movement, and creator of the legendary and spectacular piece of musical theatre, *Carnival Messiah*, last performed at Harewood in 2007, the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

## HISTORY OF THE HAREWOOD HOUSE CELLAR

The story of the Harewood Rum begins in 1711, when Henry Lascelles, aged just 21, travelled from Yorkshire to the West Indies to pursue the family business of sugar, cotton, tobacco – and rum. By 1780, the bulk of the Lascelles' West Indian property was in Barbados, including the estates that now belonging to one of the best-known Bajan rum producers Mount Gay. It is believed that the Harewood Rum came from that island. The cellar records show large quantities of wines and spirits bought and consumed at the time and subsequently Harewood House entertained lavishly and frequently, but surprisingly the rum was consumed quite sparingly: only one or two bottles a year, with the exception of one day in December 1805 when a startling eight bottles were drunk. By the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the rum seems to have been more or less forgotten, a drink that had gone out of fashion, the bottles still stored in the same bin numbers, but hidden away on a high shelf at the back of the cellar. The bottles were discovered by chance in 2011 by established wine trade professionals Mark Lascelles and Andy Langshaw, while conducting an inventory of the cellar. The remarkable bottles are almost invisible now under a thick black coating of cobwebs and dust.

The very first record of the Harewood Rum (described as Cane Spirit) is in a cellar book entry dated July 1805, which lists “226 bottles, dark and light 1780” stored in two bins in the cool, damp, vaulted cellar of Harewood House, Bin 9 for the dark, Bin 12 for the light.

<b>12 LOTS TO BE OFFERED FROM THE HARWOOD HOUSE CELLAR</b> Removed from the cellar of Harewood House, Leeds, now lying in Weybridge, Surrey (EHD)	
	Lots 287 to 292 <b><i>The Harewood Rum 'Light' 1780</i></b> Distilled in Barbados, shipped in barrel. Bottled at Harewood. Offered in original mould-blown bottles with replacement tapered corks and rewaxed capsules. Levels: all around top shoulder <b>Tasting note:</b> Medium gold colour. High-toned, alcoholic, intense brulée aromas of honey, cinnamon and baked apples. Piercing flavour, intense and long. DE 20/2/13 <i>1 bottle per lot</i> Estimate: £600-800 per lot
	Lots 293 to 298 <b><i>The Harewood Rum 'Dark' 1780</i></b> Distilled in Barbados, shipped in barrel. Bottled at Harewood. Offered in original mould-blown bottles with replacement tapered corks and rewaxed capsules. Levels: all around top shoulder <b>Tasting note:</b> Dark amber colour. Softer with intense aromas of spiced oranges, cedar and caramel. Concentrated and impressive, huge length. DE 12/10/13 <i>1 bottle per lot</i> Estimate: £600-800

## A UNIQUE OFFERING OF MADEIRA

Further highlights from the sale include a unique range of Madeira, directly sourced from the Island of Madeira, which is offered for the first time at auction. This extremely rare group comprises 157 lots, with estimates ranging from £200 up to £3,500, primarily from the private cellars of the Blandy and Borges family reserves. Leading this offering are two extremely rare bottles of "Terratez" JCA & CA, 1715, believed to be the oldest dated Madeira in existence (estimate: £2,500-3,500, *illustrated right*).

### MADEIRA

Madeira is the name of both the volcanic Portuguese island off the coast of North Africa and the fortified wine made there. The four classic types of Madeira are named after the grapes from which they are made: Sercial, Verdelho, Bual and Malvasia. All four of these types of Madeira are still in production today and typically have high natural acidity. The majority of Madeira is made from a grape called *tinta negra mole* or *tinta*.



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Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

### AUCTION

*Finest and Rarest Wines and Spirits including Rare Madeira*  
Thursday, 12 December 2013 at 10:30am and 2:30pm  
Friday, 13 December 2013 at 10:00am

### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/\$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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