

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | 20 OCTOBER 2017 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

217 RARE WATCHES MAINLY FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS TO BE OFFERED IN GENEVA



Geneva – On 13 November 2017 Christie's will hold its Rare Watches auction at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues in Geneva, offering 217 timepieces, spanning from 1660 to 2017. The majority of watches are consigned by private collectors and fresh to the market. The auction is expected to fetch in the region of CHF10 million and will offer rare pieces with estimates ranging from CHF1,000 to CHF400,000.

The oldest watch in the auction was made by Jean Rousseau the younger (1606-1684), a Master of the Clockmakers' Company of Geneva and great-grandfather of the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. He was known for making form watches and complicated pieces such as clockwatches, alarm watches and astronomical watches. Rarely seen at auction, crucifix watches are represented in several of the world's great museum collections. Similar watches to the present example are in the Louvre and in the British Museum Collection (estimate CHF25,000–45,000 / \$26,000–47,000).

The most contemporary watch in the auction was released earlier this year by Patek Philippe. Consigned by an important private collector and still originally sealed in its Patek Philippe transparent protective plastic, the reference 6102P is one of the most exceptional astronomical "Grand Complication" timepieces (estimate CHF150,000–250,000 / \$160,000–260,000). Launched in 2012, ref. 6102P is the upgraded version of the "Celestial" ref. 5102, now with the addition of a date indication on the outer rim of the dial. The "Celestial" is one of the most important horological complications ever developed, permanently showing the heavenly canopy of the northern hemisphere, rotating to emulate the apparent angular motion of the stars and moon as well as the progression of the phases of the moon.



The two star lots of the auction are firstly a Rolex chronograph wristwatch with black "John Player Special" Paul Newman dial, manufactured in 1969 (estimate CHF380,000–480,000 / \$400,000–500,000). Made in 1969, it is one of only two known examples of this model featuring French Rolex import marks on the case back.

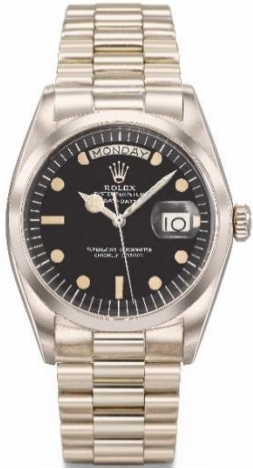


At the very top level in the world of vintage Paul Newman Daytonas is a small group of pieces that are considered world-class. This is one of these phenomenal watches, set apart from its contemporaries. Produced between 1966 and 1969, the reference 6241 was built with a black acrylic bezel with white tachymeter scale, push down buttons and housed either the 72B Valjoux caliber, 722 or the 722-1 variations. The production of the reference 6241 amounts to roughly 2,300 pieces in stainless steel with possibly less than 700 crafted with gold cases. Out of the examples crafted in gold, even fewer were fitted with Paul Newman dials either in gold or, in this case, black. Nicknamed after the Formula One car of the Brazilian legend Ayrton Senna and of utmost rarity, the reference 6241 with black 'John Player Special' dial hardly ever surfaces at auction and always attracts the interest of the most esteemed Rolex collectors.

The second star lot of the auction is a so-called "Senza Luna" Patek Philippe reference 3448 in white gold, a perpetual calendar watch without the moon phase indication (estimate CHF300,000–500,000 / \$320,000–520,000) made in 1981. It is the only example to date of a "Senza Luna" watch confirmed by the Extract from the Archives of Patek Philippe to have been made with a dial without moon phase disc. The Extract dated 9 October 2017 (received after the auction catalogue had gone to print) confirms that the "self-winding perpetual calendar watch with silvered dial and white gold indexes, dial without moon phase disc" was manufactured in 1981 and sold on 28 January 1982. It renders the present "Senza Luna" as one of Patek Philippe's rarest "prototype" watches ever made. The Extract information further demonstrates that at the exact moment in 1981 when the present watch was in the Patek Philippe workshops, the company was at a crucial stage of experimentation during the transition period between references 3448 and 3450. It is also worth considering that in 1981 nobody would have known whether the new reference 3450 was going to be a success or not, and consequently this Senza Luna was perhaps a trial or test piece for a planned non-moon perpetual calendar watch that never came into production.



Seven "Senza Luna" Patek Philippe watches are known to exist, the most famous being the yellow gold "Alan Banbery Senza Luna". This watch was accompanied by an Extract from the Archives of Patek Philippe dated 1999 confirming the special dial and the fact that the watch was modified within Patek Philippe's workshops after its initial sale in May 1970. The other six publicly known ref. 3448 watches with "Senza Luna" dials comprise three in white gold and three in yellow gold. The majority, as far as is known from existing extracts from the archives, are originally described as having a moon phase indication. It is therefore assumed that they were later modified. This is the first time since the confirmation of the "Banbery Senza Luna" that Patek Philippe has made an explicit statement regarding the existence of the moonless dials.



Entirely fresh to the market, is this ultra-exclusive 1969 white gold Rolex Day-Date, reference 1803. Verbally confirmed to the present owner while researching it at Rolex Geneva as a specially produced piece at the request of the original owner – almost unheard of with Rolex – it is a fascinating amalgam combining the ultimate sophistication of the Day-Date with the sporty looks of a Submariner or Sea-Dweller. It is in fact believed to be one of only two examples ever made with this configuration (estimate CHF60,000–120,000 / \$63,000-120,000). Ordered by the father of the present owner from Klarlund in Copenhagen, the largest and most prestigious Rolex agent in Scandinavia, the watch was completed and delivered to Klarlund at the end of 1969. Quite by chance, on the day that the client came to collect his special Rolex a very important Royal client of Klarlund was at the shop. He examined and admired the then unique piece and immediately asked if another could be made for him. Consequently, two examples are thought to exist.

The auction offers a small section of timepieces once owned by important personalities, amongst them famous actors or significant statesmen.

The elegant platinum and diamond-set dress watch by Vacheron Constantin made in 1926 belonged to the prodigious and highly esteemed French dramatist, Sachy Guitry (1885 in Saint Petersburg –1957 in Paris) who strongly influenced the theatrical and art world through his brilliant career. According to the archives of Vacheron Constantin the movement of this watch was sold to France and most probably cased by a famous French jeweler such as Verger Frères, which was a very common procedure at the time. These relationships have led to some very delicate and remarkable pieces of art, perfectly representing the Art deco period, such as the present watch (estimate CHF8,000–12,000 / \$8,300–12,300).



From the collection of the Austrian actor Helmut Berger is an 18K white gold openface leyless lever dress watch with chain by Corum, manufactured circa 1970 (estimate CHF5,000–10,000 / \$5,200–10,200). It was presented to him as a token of friendship by Lucino Visconti, the Italian theatre, opera and cinema director and screenwriter with whom he worked from 1964 until the latter's death in 1976. Berger is most known for his role as King Ludwig II of Bavaria in Ludwig (1973) with Romy Schneider, The Damned (1969), and his part in The Godfather Part III.

The extraordinary craftsmanship behind the Breguet Lady's platinum wristwatch, no. 773, is matched by its exceptional provenance. The green enamel and emerald subtle decoration on the case were carefully selected to remind the green in the Kingdom of Egypt flag. The band is furthermore enhancing the decoration of this sophisticated watch with a hand-carved floral motif. The Breguet archives confirm that this watch was made for His Majesty King Fouad I of Egypt (1917-1936) by special order and delivered to him on 10 December 1925 (estimate CHF15,000–20,000 / \$16,000–21,000).



Two important private collections are highlighting this sale – one focusing on Rolex including a total of 11 different models, the other cross-branded with 23 watches offered, including an extremely rare Vacheron Constantin chronograph. It is one of only two examples of the platinum cased reference 92900 made upon special request in 1990 (estimate CHF50,000–80,000 / \$52,000–82,000). Also from the same collection is a “Tortue” wristwatch by Cartier, with a single button chronograph mechanism in use during the 1920s allows its wearer to operate all three stop-watch functions: start, stop and return-to-zero, coaxially via the winding crown only (estimate CHF40,000–60,000 / \$42,000–62,000).



Amongst the 12 Patek Philippe models from the 1920s to the 80s from his private collection, reference 130 is undeniably one of the rarest and best-looking to be offered at auction in recent years. This charismatic watch cased in white gold is also one of the rarest and most desirable specimen of this legendary model. Launched in 1934, reference 130 was predominantly cased in yellow gold, pink gold and stainless steel. To date, only one other example in white gold is known to have appeared in public. Manufactured in 1939 with “rose dial, raised white gold indexes, tachometer scale” as confirmed by the Extract from the Archives, it was last offered at auction in 1994 and for many years has been the cherished property of the same important private collector (estimate CHF200,000–300,000 / \$210,000–310,000).

According to the Archives of Girard-Perregaux, reference 9979, playing Mozart's “A little night music” or Tchaikovsky's “No great love” on demand or every hour, was sold in 2007 with the black matte dial added as a special request of the owner, rendering it possibly a unique piece. Consigned by an important private collector and fresh to the market, the present “Opera Three” is preserved in like new overall condition (estimate CHF120,000-220,000 / \$130,000-230,000). Part of an exceedingly small series, the Opera Three represents a rare find for the aficionados of haute horlogerie and classical music alike.





Other highlights include a highly unusual and possibly unique 18K gold bracelet watch reference 3266/101 with matching ring and pair of earrings comprises of (estimate CHF50,000-80,000 / \$52,000-83,000). It was made for the “Montres & Bijoux” exhibition in September 1961 at Geneva's celebrated Rath Museum. This exhibition was established in 1959 to award the most innovative creation in the watchmaking and jewellery industry of Geneva. The present “parure” signed Patek Philippe is a typical Gilbert Albert design from the 1960s. It was very innovative at the time and reveals the resolutely modern and visionary attitude resulting from the inventive collaboration between Patek Philippe and Gilbert Albert, who has been the first living artist since 1917 to be invited to show his creations in the Moscow Kremlin in 1991.

Rolex watches which are embellished with a cloisonné enamel dial are amongst the rarest and most highly desirable prizes of all. Usually only six pieces of each design were ever made, the present watch, reference 6099 being one of the fabled “dragon” designs made for Rolex by Stern Frères in collaboration with the enamel artist Nelly Richard, and dates from circa 1952 (estimate CHF120,000-180,000 / \$130,000-190,000). Consigned by a descendant of the original owner, the fresh to the market aspect further renders this masterpiece one of the most appealing “time only” Rolex wristwatches of all with a dial still as beautiful and vibrant as the day it was made over sixty years ago.



CHRISTIE'S FALL 2017 GLOBAL WATCHES SALES CALENDAR:

Only Watch 2017 | GENEVA

SATURDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2017

RARE WATCHES | GENEVA

MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2017

IMPORTANT WATCHES & AN EVENING OF VINTAGE WRISTWATCHES | HONG KONG

MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 2017

WATCHES ONLINE

30 NOVEMBER – 14 DECEMBER, 2017

AN EVENING OF EXCEPTIONAL WATCHES | NEW YORK

THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 2017

Press Contact: Alexandra Kindermann – akindermann@christies.com – 079 101 41 96

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

