

For Immediate Release

December 21, 2007

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**CHRISTIE'S LEADS AMERICANA WEEK IN NEW YORK
WITH A SERIES OF SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS**

Important American Silver ~ January 17

Important American Furniture, Folk Art, Prints and Decoys ~ January 17 - 18

Property from the Collection of George and Lesley Schoedinger ~ January 18

The Collection of Marguerite and Arthur Riordan, Stonington Connecticut ~ January 18

New York – Christie's is honored to present several significant collections during Americana week on January 17-18 in New York with *The Collection of Marguerite and Arthur Riordan, Stonington Connecticut*, *Property from the Collection of George and Lesley Schoedinger*, *Property of the Estate of Charles H. Carpenter, Jr.*, and *Property from the Hirsch and Ethel D. Jacobs*. Leading the *Important American Furniture, Folk Art, Prints and Decoys* sale is the Stevenson family scalloped-top tea table (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000). This season of American Furniture and Decorative Arts will delight collectors with a range of rare objects — from waterfowl decoys to a collection of thoroughbred racing trophies.



Following the recent record breaking sale in October 2007 of the “Garvan” carved pie-crust tea table, the focal point of the various owner sale is the Stevenson family Chippendale mahogany scalloped-top tea table (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000). Conceived and executed as a masterpiece, this tea table survives in a remarkable state of preservation. Its old, largely undisturbed surface reveals a magnificent mahogany grain and the full depth of its exuberant carving. The table's elaborately carved details – described at that time as a ‘scalloped top’, ‘carved pillar’, ‘fluting for the pillar’, ‘leaves on knees’ and ‘claw feet’ – were among the attributes listed in Philadelphia's 1772 cabinetmaker's price book that made this design the most expensive option listed. Based on documented architectural carving, the ornamentation is attributed to the partnership of Nicholas Bernard and Martin Jugiez, two of Philadelphia's most acclaimed carvers in the 18th century. The table descended from the Stevenson family of

Philadelphia and was sold by a direct descendant at Christie's in 1990. Purchased by the Dietrich American Foundation, the table has since been exhibited alongside a nearly identical example in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It is now being sold by the Foundation to raise funds for preservation and scholarship in the field of American decorative arts.



Two important portraits of the first president of the United States are offered in the sale. A *Portrait of George Washington* attributed to Edward Savage, 1797-1801, is a variant portrait modeled after Gilbert Stuart's iconic *Lansdowne Portrait* (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$200,000-300,000). This small full-length portrait is excellently preserved and retains the highly charged significance of Stuart's imaginative invention, which insisted on the accurate physical record of Washington's statue. Another exceedingly rare *Portrait of George Washington* by Edward Hicks comes from a direct descendent of the artist (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Exhibiting Hicks's unique and unschooled style, this head and shoulders portrait with thinly applied paint suggests that he used this painting as a reference sketch.



The Collection of Marguerite and Arthur Riordan, Stonington Connecticut

Representing the rural New England aesthetic, the collection of Marguerite and Arthur Riordan is comprised of 180 lots, with an emphasis on clean, simple objects that are neither fancy nor fussy. For over 40 years Marguerite Riordan has been one of the most respected figures in the realm of American Folk Art and Furniture and has helped numerous collectors assemble outstanding collections. She is known for her wide-ranging knowledge and her incredible eye for the best in folk painting, needlework and New England furniture. The collection comes from the Stonington, Connecticut home where Marguerite and her husband Arthur have lived for the last 35 years in a converted furniture factory turned stunning gallery and living space with a gorgeous view of Stonington Harbor. Having decided to enjoy a slower pace of life, the Riordans are now selling many of the pieces they have lived with and loved.



Amongst the highlights in the Riordan collection is the Kittredge Family Chippendale walnut chest of drawers likely made in Marblehead, Massachusetts around 1750-1760 (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$200,000-300,000). According to family tradition and supported by the label of a nineteenth-century owner, the high chest descended in the Kittredge family of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Regionally expressive, superbly designed and expertly crafted, this high chest of drawers is a masterpiece of Essex County, Massachusetts cabinetmaking. It appears to retain its original brasses and most indicative of Marblehead work are the carved ball-and-claw feet that bear a distinctive

bulbous "sack" at the top of the rear talon.

The Miriam Cook joined and carved oak and pine "Hadley" chest with drawer is one of the more significant survivals of the Hadley Chest tradition, which has long captured the attention and imagination of American furniture scholars and collectors (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$100,000 - 150,000). The chest is carved with the initials "MC," and maintains its original lid, old paint, and is decorated with a repeating tulip-and-leaf template. The MC chest is not only distinguished by being among the few that can be linked to its original owners, but also for its wonderfully preserved condition.



A carved and painted steamboat weathervane crafted by William C. Manchester in 1858 in Bristol, Rhode Island, stands as an important symbol of America's burgeoning industrial ingenuity (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$60,000-90,000). Embracing the essential components of a steam powered ferryboat, this weathervane is enhanced by a bold application of red, white, and blue paint, intricate details of ornamentation, and a bearded captain steering the boat. Proudly waving both American and Rhode Island flags this steamboat articulates the maker's faith in both his nation and his state.



Two portraits stand out in the Riordan collection; Ammi Phillips's *Portrait of Mr. Dilbee of Pine Plains*, circa 1816, and *Willard Family Portrait* attributed to John S. Blunt, circa 1834-1835 (each estimate: \$30,000-50,000). The *Willard Family Portrait* exhibits many elements characteristic of the work of John S. Blunt such as realistically executed faces, highly detailed costumes combined with abstracted bodies and furniture. This group portrait depicts, from left to right, Frances Adeline Whitman Willard, her daughter Frances Adeline Willard, and her son, Henry Haskell Willard, Jr. The mother holds in her hand a portrait miniature of her husband, Henry Haskell Willard.

Of the six exceptional Windsor chairs offered, a highlight is the blue-painted sack-back Windsor armchair that is attributed to Amos Denison Allen between 1790-1795 (estimate: \$15,000-25,000). The chair retains its original blue paint and is one of the great examples of Connecticut Windsor chair making with its beautifully turned arm supports that echo the dramatic leg splay.

Property from the Collection of George and Lesley Schoedinger

Leading the collection of George and Lesley Schoedinger on January 18 is a Chippendale carved mahogany dressing table, possibly made by John Goddard (1723-1785) or Edmund Townsend (1736-1811) (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$400,000 - 600,000). This dressing table, with its broad and deep proportions, exuberant shell and robust legs, is a powerful expression of the eighteenth-century Newport aesthetic. Only about twenty shell-carved dressing tables from



the city are known today, all exhibiting variations in design and carving.

A pair of Queen Anne walnut side chairs, Boston, 1740-1750, are a rare survival as a pair and embellished with expertly carved ornamentation (estimate: \$50,000 - 80,000). This pair is distinguished by their slip-seat frames, one of which is original to the chair and the other is from the same original set. A Chippendale Cedrela side chair, Boston, 1735-1745 probably made in the same shop as the well-known set of Apthorp chairs, this side chair exhibits the hallmarks of high style Boston chair making in the late 1730s and 1740s (estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000). Whereas other examples were all made of walnut and have walnut-veneered splats, this chair is distinguished by its use of cedrela, or Spanish cedar.

Property from the Estate of Charles H. Carpenter, Jr.

The property of the Estate of Charles H. Carpenter, Jr. will be offered in the various owner sale on January 18. Regarded as authorities and scholars in American decorative arts, Charles H. Carpenter Jr. and his wife Mary Grace Carpenter collected within the fields of their study. Their collection was maintained in their restored 1837 Greek Revival home on Nantucket, where the Carpenters were widely known as leading scholars in the field of Nantucket regional crafts. Comprised of approximately 60 lots, objects include a rare cache of Nantucket artifacts such as scrimshaw, lightship baskets, and jaggging wheels — some owned by original settlers.

Waterfowl Decoys

A collecting area within Americana that has taken flight in recent seasons is waterfowl decoys. Held in partnership with Guyette & Schmidt, the world's largest decoy auction firm, the January 18 auction will feature over 70 decoys with estimates ranging from \$1,000 to \$600,000. Rare examples include an Eider Drake made in Deer Island, Maine in the late 19th century, one of the finest of its type to appear at auction and is of exceptional form with detailed bill carving and a stylized paint

pattern (estimate: \$400,000-500,000); and a hollow carved Canada goose used as both a stickup and floating device, is considered as one of the best examples made by Nathan Cobb Jr. in Virginia during the 1870s (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$400,000-600,000). The Cobb Canada goose was formerly in the collection of pioneer folk art collector and dealer, Adele Earnest. The decoy is pictured in both of her books; *The Art of the Decoy*, and *Folk Art in America*.



Important American Silver

On January 17, property from the Hirsch and Ethel D. Jacobs family collection of thoroughbred racing trophies will present equestrian aficionados with the first opportunity to buy a triple-crown trophy at auction. Born in Brooklyn, Hirsch Jacobs quickly rose from being a workaday trainer to one of the nation's leading trainers of champion horses whilst amassing a fashionable breeding



operation. The sale offers over 50 lots of trophy cups and trays and other racing paraphernalia. Important trophies include the Preakness trophy which was won by Ethel D. Jacobs's horse *Personality* in 1970 (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$20,000-30,000), a Belmont Stakes trophy won by *High Echelon* in 1970 (estimate: \$15,000-25,000), and a gold trophy from the Delaware Handicap won by *Straight Deal* in 1967 (estimate: \$12,000-18,000).

The auction also features an exceptional collection of 19th century aesthetic movement silver of mixed metals, enameled works and exposition pieces, with a concentration of works by Tiffany & Co. An important silver gilt and enamel vase designed by Paulding Farnham of Tiffany & Co. for the 1900 Paris Exposition is a stunning example of the maker's work with its raised beading in geometric, floral and meander bands, enclosing red, green and blue enamel bosses in imitation of rubies, emeralds and sapphires (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$120,000-180,000). Another treasure also by Tiffany & Co., New York, 1884-1891 is a rare silver wine jug in a whimsical form of a pig studying a dragonfly on his snout attributed to Edward C. Moore (estimate: \$100,000-150,000).



Colonial silver highlights include a fine silver covered sugar urn by Paul Revere, Jr., Boston, circa 1800, which has been with the descendents of the original owner, Capt. William P.S. Sanger, who was the U.S. Navy's first civil engineer and the father of the modern Civil Engineer Corps (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$40,000-60,000). A coffee pot by Joseph Richardson Sr., Philadelphia, circa 1765 is another austere colonial work (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

Auction:

Important American Silver
Important American Furniture, Folk Art, Prints and Decoys
Property from the Collection of George and Lesley Schoedinger
The Collection of Marguerite and Arthur Riordan, Stonington Connecticut

January 17 at 10am and 2pm
 January 17-18
 January 18 at 12:00
 January 18 at 2:00

Viewing:

Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Plaza

January 12 - 17

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$600 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva,

Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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More information about Christie's American sales can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

