

For Immediate Release

January 4, 2006

Contact: Kate Swan kswan@christies.com 212.636.2680
Jennifer Park jspark@christies.com

THE MAN OF THE CAFÉ CARLYLE

Christie's to offer Personal Property of famed pianist Bobby Short in February Sale

"If you believe as I do, that physical objects retain the vibration and essence of where they have been, then these elegant objects from Bobby's Estate are filled with his warmth, love and exuberance. They are moving representations of a life well lived."

-Michael Feinstein, an American Singer and Pianist

**The Personal Property of Bobby Short
February 16, 2006**

New York – On February 16, Christie's is pleased to present to collectors and fans alike, *The Personal Property of Bobby Short*. This 250-lot sale will offer the contents of Mr. Short's three bedroom apartment on the Upper East Side, featuring everything from his cufflinks to his grand piano. A self-proclaimed "saloon singer," the late Bobby Short was a living legend and quickly became a New York institution, performing in one of the most distinctive jazz venues, the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan, for over 35 years.

Born in Danville, Illinois, Mr. Short trained himself by ear to play the piano and sing and began performing and touring in vaudeville at the age of 12. His career achievements include album releases and nightclub performances in major cities around the world, earning him status as the nation's most celebrated cabaret performer. He was praised by many and was a favorite among the international jet set, yet he remained humble and true to his audience. An active member of the music and arts community, he was a Trustee at the Studio Museum in Harlem and a Board Member

Christie's
20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020
phone 212.636.2680 fax 212.636.4951
www.christies.com

at the Third Street Music School Settlement, as well as the founder and President of the Duke Ellington Memorial Fund. Mr. Short may have joined these institutions in an effort to keep the arts alive, but many will agree that his greatest contribution to ‘the cause’ was his music.

Bobby Short led an elegant life, which manifested itself in the property of his ‘cocktail chic’ apartment. Leading the sale is his Bechstein black lacquer grand piano with bench (estimate: \$30,000 - 40,000). Other highlights include his art deco mahogany and parchment-veneered writing desk (estimate: \$3,000 – 5,000) and monogrammed Cartier silver ice bucket and cover (estimate: \$2,000 – 3,000), items he used on a regular basis.

In addition to his personal effects, aficionados will be drawn to his incredible collection of tribal art, works by African Americans, and historical African American memorabilia. Mr. Short was proud of his heritage and collected in these categories as a means to remember the past and support the achievements of African Americans. The highlight of his collection is Bill Traylor’s *Black Cow*, circa 1939-1942, which is expected to realize between \$25,000 – 35,000.

Auction: The Personal Property of Bobby Short

February 16 at 10 am

Viewing: Christie’s Galleries at Rockefeller Center

February 11 - 15

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie’s Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *The Personal Property of Bobby Short* 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.

