

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Catherine Manson 44.207.389.2664 cmanson@christies.com
Christina Freyberg 44.207.389.2117 cfreyberg@christies.com

PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCE HENRY, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, KG, KT, KP, TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN JANUARY 2006



London - Christie's announces that a selection of works of art and books from the Estate of His Royal Highness, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, KG, KT, KP and other family items will be offered for sale on 26 and 27 January 2006. The auction will comprise a broad range of works of art including furniture, silver, porcelain, Asian art and pictures as well as a superb sporting library. The selection to be offered at auction reflects the life, travel and interests of HRH the late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester from the sporting areas of the collection to the objects and works of art that formed part of the interiors of his Royal residence.

Universally well regarded and known as a dedicated and diligent individual, His Royal Highness the Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, KG, KT, KP (31 March 1900 -10 June 1974) was the third son of King George V and Queen Mary. Prince Henry was the last Prince to be photographed as a baby sitting on Queen Victoria's lap and the first Royal Prince to go to school, rather than being educated at home. He entered Sandhurst towards the end of the First World War and embarked upon the career of a regimental cavalry officer.

In 1928, his father, by now King, created him Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster and Baron Culloden. Over the course of his Royal duties, the Prince undertook many



highly important missions. In 1929, he travelled to Tokyo to award the Order of the Garter to the Emperor of Japan. On 2 November 1930, he attended the coronation of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa representing the King. In 1934, with the agreement of the Irish President of the Executive Council, Eamon de Valera, King George V made him a Knight of St Patrick (KP), Ireland's chivalric order. It was the last time this order was awarded. In 1935, HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester married Lady Alice Christabel Montagu Douglas Scott. She was the third daughter of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and they had two sons, Prince William of Gloucester (1941-1972) and Prince Richard of Gloucester (born 1944), now the 2nd Duke of Gloucester. In late 1944, HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was appointed Governor-General of Australia.

HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester and his wife lived mainly at Barnwell Manor in Northamptonshire. It had been a Buccleuch property, but passed out of the family's possession in the early 20th century. The couple loved their country home and the Duke was very interested in the estate and farming. Among his private passions were horses and country sports. He played excellent polo and was a renowned amateur jockey. In addition, he was a keen huntsman, shot and angler – indeed his interest in both horses and country sports shines through his collection of works of art and his library. HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester was greatly encouraged in forming his collection by both his mother and father. King George V is celebrated as one of the greatest collector of stamps and Queen Mary was also a particularly avid collector in many areas.

Leading the sale is HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester's superb **Sporting library**, one of the last remaining English sporting libraries formed between the two World Wars, and one of the finest in private hands. The Duke started collecting during his days at Eton, and the formation of a serious library was certainly well underway by the 1920s. Although some books were gifts from his mother and father, Prince Henry acquired the majority of the library from bookshops and auctions, using dealers or agents, so that his purchases remained anonymous. In 1937, he made an offer to acquire the famous Schwerdt collection of sporting books in its entirety. Although he was turned down he successfully acquired a considerable number of important works in the six auction sales of the Schwerdt collection that followed in 1939 to 1946. About a quarter of the 2,000 volumes in Prince Henry's library were acquired from Schwerdt's collection. He also bought at the sale of the Dixon Collection in New York in 1937, an American hunting and sporting collector of note. Highlights of the library include an exquisite early English hawking text manuscript dating from the late 15th century (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Further highlights include a magnificent volume of aquatints by John Frederick Herring of *The Winners of St Leger* (estimate: £12,000-18,000) and a highly decorative manuscript album of watercolours of hunting scenes titled the *Meltonian* (estimate: £20,000-30,000). The 280 lot section of the sale covers the whole range of books

devoted to horses, horse racing, dogs, shooting and hunting. Estimates range from £500 to £100,000. Two important medieval manuscripts (Lot 502, The Kerdeston Hawking Book and Lot 503, Leaves from the Kerdeston Hunting Book) that were originally included in the sale are to be offered to the nation from the Estate of the Late Duke of Gloucester, to meet part of the tax liabilities. The family's wish is that these manuscripts will end up in The British Library.

HRH the late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester's interest in this area also extended to a superb collection of **sporting pictures** from the 19th century, with leading sporting artists of the day such as John Ferneley, Sen. (1782-1860), the Alken family of sporting painters, John Nost Sartorius (1749-1828) and Charles Towne (1763-1840) among others. Highlights include John Ferneley's portrait of *William Wilson on Go Easy* (estimate: £60,000-80,000). Painted in 1836 at Ferneley's studio in Melton Mowbray, it is a fine example of the artist's work, from a period when he was patronised by many of the most prominent members of the aristocracy and some of the most famous personalities of the time, such as Beau Brummell and the Count D'Orsay. Another Ferneley in the collection shows *The Squire with the Quorn* (estimate: £30,000-50,000), painted to celebrate a hugely successful run with the Quorn Hounds from Coplow to Ranksborough.

In addition to the Sporting collection, a broad group of works of art including silver, furniture, glass and household objects are to be offered for sale. **Silver** dating from the 18th to the 20th century will be led by a pair of George III silver soup tureens and covers by Paul Storr, London, 1811 (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Another soup tureen to be offered is a delightful example produced for, and engraved with the cypher of, William IV and Queen Adelaide by William Bateman for the Royal goldsmiths' Rundell, Bridge and Rundell. The tureen was later presented by Queen Adelaide to Albert, 1st Baron Londesborough, (1805-1860), along with an enormous service of plate weighing some 10,000 oz. It was sold by his son William, 2nd Baron and later 1st Earl Londesborough (1834-1900) at Christie's in May of 1898. Supported on lion and unicorn feet and surmounted by a Royal crown finial this exceptional tureen is estimated at £8,000-12,000. More modestly estimated lots include a Victorian silver rose bowl presented to HRH the late Prince Henry by his Great Grandmother Queen Victoria (£1,200-1,800). The sale will also include a selection of boxes, objects of vertu and fans. A magnificent Royal gold and enamel small-sword made in 1805 for William Frederick, 2nd Duke of Gloucester is a superb example (estimate: £35,000-45,000) and a further highlight of the auction.

The **furniture** in the sale includes tables, chairs, commodes and chests with estimates ranging from £300 to over £60,000. The highlight is a late George II mahogany breakfront library bookcase (estimate: £40,000-60,000). Other pieces to be offered range from a pair of George III mahogany serving-tables (estimate: £15,000-25,000) and a

Regency mahogany three-pedestal dining table (estimate: £10,000-15,000) to an Edwardian satinwood hanging bookshelf (estimate: £500-800) and a Victorian oak occasional table (estimate: £300-500).

Giving a fascinating glimpse into Royal entertaining and dining, the sale will also offer a good selection of **porcelain** and **glass** including a strong selection of decanters. Among the services to be offered are a colourful Berlin part dinner service painted with flowers and butterflies dating from the 18th century (estimate: £2,000-3,000) and a turquoise and floral Sèvres style part dessert-service including five dishes and twelve plates (estimate: £1,500-2,000). The English porcelain includes a range from a Royal Doulton part tea and dessert service comprising fifty pieces (estimate: £400-600). Practical as well as having such superb Royal Provenance are fifteen Ironstone soup plates, *circa* 1840 (estimate: £500-700).

Asian works of art include a selection of Japanese lacquer as well as a 'Presentation' suzuribako and matching document box decorated with a court carriage among maples, 19th century (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Among the **Chinese** examples in the sale is a pair of cinnabar lacquer circular boxes and covers, 19th century (estimate: £2,500-4,000) and a cloisonné enamel censer with cover, 18th century (estimate: £1,500-2,500).

This sale is taking place to settle the deferred capital transfer tax liability on the Estate of HRH the late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. Full details of all the items in the sale will be available on publication of the catalogue in December.

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