

## For Immediate Release

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## ROYAL RESULTS AT CHRISTIE'S THE COLLECTION OF KING GEORGE I OF THE HELLENES SELLS FOR £9.3 MILLION (\$18.4 MILLION / €14 MILLION)

24 and 25 January 2007

Christie's King Street

**London** – The two-day sale of the Collection of King George I of the Hellenes held on 24 and 25 January 2007 at Christie's King Street realised £9,358,964 (\$18,483,954/€14,188,189), six times the pre-sale estimate. The collection was 100% sold by both value and lot. This was the third successful Royal sale to be held at Christie's London in the last twelve months, with the sale generating enormous interest from around the world, far exceeding pre-sale expectations.

In front of a packed saleroom, enthusiastic bidders in the room, on telephone lines and on the internet via Christie's LIVE™, competed against each other throughout the two-day sale. During the auction, 99 clients registered to bid use Christie's LIVE™, the highest number to date for a London sale. After nineteen hours of frantic bidding, the final lot was reached. It was sold to a bidder over the internet. Registered buyer activity was 83% from Europe, with 46% from the UK, 13% from Greece and 3% from Russia; 14% from the Americas; 3% from Asia and the Middle East.

*"This was a unique opportunity to acquire wonderful objects from the private collection of King George I of the Hellenes, a popular late 19<sup>th</sup> century monarch, who was so closely related to many of the Royal Families of Europe. The fabulous results demonstrate his enduring appeal and underline the popularity of works of art with a Royal provenance,"* said **Harry Williams-Bulkeley, Head of Silver** and **Andrew Waters, Head of House Sales**, in charge of the sale.

Silver and Fabergé comprised the largest section of the collection. The top lot of the sale was King Christian IX of Denmark's silver wedding-gift from his children and son-in-law, a pair of Victorian massive silver pilgrim flasks, by The Crown Jeweller, Robert Garrard, London 1866 which realised £579,200 (\$1,143,920/€878,067), while King George I's silver wedding present from his parents and siblings, a pair of important Danish silver soup-tureens, liners, covers and stands by Michelsen,

Copenhagen, 1892, achieved £232,000 (\$458,200/€351,712) against a pre-sale estimate of £30,000 to £50,000.

The Russian Imperial Family to whom King George I was related through his wife, Queen Olga, was very much in the bidders minds as they competed for the Fabergé pieces which included a Russian silver gilt and nephrite perpetual desk calendar, *circa* 1890 and a Russian guilloché enamelled gold egg compact, by Fabergé, 1908-1917. They both realised £276,800 (\$546,680/€419,629), having been estimated at £10,000 to £15,000 and £12,000 to £18,000 respectively. While the Russian two-colour gold-mounted clock, by Fabergé, 1908-1917, achieved £232,000 (\$458,200/€351,712), with the Russian jewelled and enamelled two-colour gold bonbonnière by Fabergé selling for £209,600 (\$413,960/€317,754).

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