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***PAINTINGS AND WORKS OF ART FROM THE ESTATES OF
BARON FOULD-SPRINGER AND CÉCILE DE ROTHSCHILD***

Christie's Paris

11 March 2003

Paris – Christie's is to offer paintings and works of art from the estates of Baron Fould-Springer and Cécile de Rothschild on 11 March 2003. After the success of the sales of Rothschild Collections in London, Geneva and New York, Christie's France is delighted to have been

chosen as the auctioneer to hold the sale of works of art from the Estate of a member of the French branch of this illustrious family. The pieces to be included in the sale comprise French furniture and works of art, Asian art, silver, porcelain, maiolicas and paintings.

Estate of Baron Fould-Springer

Max Fould-Springer (1906 – 1999) was born in Vienna to an Austrian mother, whose family had businesses in Central Europe and France, and to a French father, descending from the illustrious Fould family of bankers that goes back to the Second Empire. Although he felt profoundly French throughout his life, his name – which was ennobled by Emperor François-Joseph of Austria (1830–1916) – made him a faithful adherent and supporter of both cultures.

Though not a passionate collector, Baron Fould-Springer had a great sense of taste and an incomparable talent for successfully combining works of art and objects from different periods and styles, many of which were acquired by his father, Baron Eugène Fould-Springer, in the 19th century. Their diversity is amply illustrated in the auction catalogue, which includes 18th and 19th century Chinese and Japanese decorative arts, 18th and 19th century French furniture, French and Austrian silver and old master pictures. It includes some 20th century decorative art pieces such as a mirror by the famous 1940's French designer, sculptor and jeweller Line Vautrin (estimate: €4,500–6,000) and a ceramic pot by Georges Jouve (estimate: €1,500–1,800). There is also an interesting ensemble of miniature owls, a motif that appears in the Baron's coat of arms. The Fould-Springer estate offers a wide choice of Asian pieces such as Chinese porcelain and ceramics from the Kangxi period (1662–1722) and Japanese lacquers and jades. A porcelain Cong vase is estimated at €2,500 to 3,500 and turquoise glazed sandstone works of art including a brush pot (estimate: €2,000–3,000) and a 18th century large turquoise glazed sandstone dish (estimate: €2,000–3,000) are also offered.

Select pieces of furniture and works of art will be offered from the estate such as a pair of Régence wall-lights with figures from the Commedia dell' Arte (estimate: €30,000–50,000) and a Louis XV commode by the Swiss cabinet maker Mathias Funk (estimate: €15,000–25,000).

Baron Fould-Springer was passionate about classical and modern architecture and was deeply involved in the protection and renovation of French monuments, such as the Louvre colonnade, the Versailles opera and the beautiful 18th century stables of the Château de Chantilly. Sixty years of his life were devoted to restoring and reviving the Royaumont Abbatial Palace, a splendid and rare example of 18th century Palladian architecture, near Paris, acquired by the Baron's parents in 1924. Baron Fould-Springer is remembered by his friends and family as an intelligent, kind and discreet gentleman.

Estate of Cécile de Rothschild

Born at the turn of the 19th century, Cécile de Rothschild (1913 – 1995) was the younger daughter of Baron Robert de Rothschild (1880–1946), grandson of the founder of the French line

of the family, Baron James de Rothschild (1792–1868). She was the sister of Elie (b. 1917), a banker and renowned international figure who was married to Max Fould–Springer’s sister, Liliane. Cécile de Rothschild was admired in social circles for her intelligence and profound knowledge of art, as well as human psychology. She was a golfer of professional class, a refined gourmet, an expert gardener and a motorcar lover. Her passion for art led her to develop a very discerning eye. One day when her father returned from London, he announced to his children that he had bought something beginning with a “C”, and that whoever guessed what it was, could have it. Unexpectedly for a child then aged 13, Cécile acclaimed “Cézanne” and received “Les Baigneuses”.

As her interest in modern pictures intensified, she also demonstrated a good understanding of decorative arts. The sale will feature a strong selection of furniture and decorative arts, including a Louis XVI ebony and amaranth console–desserte by Pafrat, en suite with furniture delivered to the Duc d’Orléans (1747–1793), circa 1788 for his Château du Raincy (estimate: €120,000–180,000). A pair of Louis XVI ormolu chenêts, decorated with female nymphs and turtledoves will also be offered (estimate: €120,000–180,000). The latter is identical to the one kept at Waddesdon Manor in England and was almost certainly commissioned by the Duchess of Montmorency (d.1818). Another interesting piece is a pair of Louis XVI gilt–wood fauteuils attributed to Henri Jacob (estimate: € 60,000–90,000). The sale also comprises a Louis XVI ormolu and Sèvres porcelain–mounted clock decorated with putti, the design of which is kept at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Only two other examples of this model are known, one of which was displayed in the bedroom of Maria Feodorovna, wife of Emperor Paul I (1754–1801) in Pavlovsk outside St Petersburg (estimate: €120,000–150,000).

The collection further includes a splendid and exceptionally rare enamelled gold Jewish marriage ring, from 17th century Northern Italy or Southern Germany (estimate: € 30,000–40,000). Most such rings were the property of the Jewish community, used for wedding ceremonies, and only very few were held privately. The inside of the ring is finely engraved with the traditional Hebrew inscription Mazal Tov (good luck), while the bezel is formed as the gabled roof of a house with blue enamel fish–scale tiles, symbolising the new home established by the bridal pair. The sides are applied with delicate filigree work and enamelled flower heads.

Alongside fine examples of Antiquity pieces, the sale includes Italian majolica dishes, Vincennes, Sèvres and Meissen porcelain and 16th to 20th century Continental and English silver such as a 16th century silver and parcel–gilt basin probably executed in Portugal (estimate: €7,000–10,000), a 16th century example from Bratislava (Presbourg) (estimate: € 18,000–20,000) and an important silver gourde de pèlerin by J. Garrard, London, with the inscription “Doncaster cup 1884 won by Louis d’Or” (estimate: €40,000–60,000).

The sale will also feature fine objects of vertu, a Madura piece by Picasso and examples of Post–War art including a pastel by Jean–Michel Atlan signed and dated “Atlan 56” (estimate:

€6,000–8,000), an iron-work by César executed in 1956–57 (estimate: €15,000–20,000) and an drawing in ink on paper by Henri Michaux entitled *Composition* (estimate: €12,000–15,000).

A portrait of the Duchess of Alba, painted by Augustin Esteve Marques (after Goya), will be the highlight of the Old Master Picture section with an estimate of €40,000 to 60,000 and this portrait will conclude the sale of works of art once cherished by Cécile de Rothschild, a kind and ardent collector whose interests were boundless.

Auction: March 11

Viewing: March 6–10

Christies.com: This sale will be featured on www.christies.com. All lots in the sale can be viewed online, along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®.

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