

For Immediate Release

4 February 2005

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A DRAGON'S FIRE HELPS TO PASS THE HOURS AT CHRISTIE'S
Time strikes for an extraordinary clock collection in March



The Albert Odmark Collection of Important Clocks and Watches

Friday 11 March 2005

Christie's King Street

London - A remarkable collection of clocks, from eight different countries and spanning five centuries, is to be sold at Christie's King Street on 11 March 2005. The 450-lot collection of clocks, pocket watches and books, collected since the second world war by Albert Odmark, features some extraordinary works and examples from all forms of horology. It is estimated to fetch £1.5-2 million.

The collection comprises some 200 clocks, with estimates ranging from £100-£150,000, and includes examples of long case clocks, skeleton clocks, carriage and lantern clocks, an Italian Baroque night clock, electrical pieces as well as a number of Japanese timepieces, including incense clocks.

Among the clock highlights are a Japanese black and gilt lacquered dragon fire clock (estimate: £700-1,000), which functions when incense is burned within it, and a Charles II silver-mounted miniature lantern clock, with calendar, by Robert Robinson, circa 1670, (estimate: £5,000-8,000).



An Italian ebony night clock, circa 1680, (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and a superb Regency gilt and silvered metal spherical skeleton clock, circa 1820 (estimate: £20,000-30,000), are further highlights. The intricate mechanism of this skeleton clock, made by George Jamison, which also features a perpetual calendar, is on full view for all to see.

The collection also includes a library of books which boasts a rare 17th century horological work, *Horological Dialogues*, 1675, by John Smith, the first clock book written by an Englishman.

Born in Connecticut in 1914, Albert Odmark achieved a Masters in electrical engineering at Yale and worked for Boeing in Seattle, heading a team developing a sophisticated radar system. In the 1960s, he became one of the first Americans to join the Antiquarian Horological Society in London. He and his wife maintained life-long friendships with those involved in an era of discovery and intellectual development in the world of horology.

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Images available on request

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