

For Immediate Release

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SPORTING ART MASTERS AT CHRISTIE'S

Superb Single Owner Collection Expected to Fetch up to £2 Million at Auction in May



Sir Alfred Munnings, *An Irish Horse Fair* (estimate: £300,000-500,000)

Sporting Art

21 May 2004

London - Christie's is delighted to announce the sale of a superb single owner collection of nine paintings by the celebrated equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings together with major works by other masters of Sporting Art including Sir Edwin Landseer. The collection, which features many scenes of equestrian and sporting life, from hunting to racing, polo and shooting, will be offered in the **Sporting Art** sale on 21 May at Christie's King Street and is expected to fetch up to £2 million.

Two superb Irish horse fair paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings highlight the collection. *An Irish Horse Fair* (estimate: 300,000-500,000) and *The Kilkenny Horse Fair* (estimate: 300,000-500,000) convey the atmosphere and excitement of country horse fairs. Munnings's

images of horse sales and country fairs achieved much acclaim during his lifetime and they remain amongst the most sought after of his paintings today. Both of these works show Munnings's understanding of the form and character of the horse at his most proficient.

Other masters of Sporting Art in this collection include one of the finest works by the leading late 19th century painter of dogs, John Emms, *Hounds and a Jack Russell in a stable* (estimate: £200,000-300,000). Also offered is Sir Edwin Landseer's *Retriever and Woodcock*, 1845 (estimate: £80,000-120,000) which was painted when Landseer was at the height of his career, undertaking numerous commissions for the Royal Family.

John Stainton, Director, British Paintings, International Head of Sporting Art comments: "In our seventh year of holding these highly successful specialised sales in London, Christie's is very pleased to be offering such important Sporting pictures from a private American collection. These nine works by Sir Alfred Munnings are a fitting tribute to the extent of his talent in both oil and watercolour and his adept handling of various subject-matter."

The Sporting Art sale will also feature an selection of paintings and watercolours, silver and bronzes related to racing, hunting, shooting, fishing and other country sports from the 17th century to the present day.

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Images on Request

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Notes to Editors:

Highlights from the collection will be on view at Christie's, Rockefeller Plaza, New York (17-21 April) and Dublin (28-29 April) prior to their exhibition at Christie's, King Street (16-20 May).