

For Immediate Release

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**A SUMPTUOUS COLLECTION FROM HERMITAGE ANTIQUES,
PIMLICO AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON IN APRIL**

**The Hermitage Antiques Collection
Tuesday, 4 April 2006 at 10.30am**



South Kensington – A treasure trove of period Biedermeier, Russian, Continental and Oriental furniture, chandeliers and objets d'art from Hermitage Antiques in Pimlico Road will be offered in a sumptuous single owner sale on 4 April 2006 at Christie's South Kensington. With estimates ranging from £200-£20,000, this beautiful collection of over 450 lots has been built up over 30 years of trading and is estimated to fetch in excess of £750,000.

Hermitage Antiques was established by Bernard Vieux-Pernon in 1970 in Camden Passage and later moved in 1974 to Pimlico Road, an oasis of wonderful shops and larger-than-life antiques trade characters. Originally an eclectic mix of French Provincial, Oriental and European furniture and objects, Bernard

was inspired to change the direction of Hermitage Antiques following a holiday visit to a diplomat friend in Moscow. Visiting the amazing treasures of St Petersburg and Moscow and their palaces had a great impact and Bernard returned to Britain with a love and passion for Russian and Biedermeier furniture.

Amongst the 450 pieces of furniture and objects is a sparkling selection of lighting including a Swedish Empire ormolu and glass six light chandelier, *circa* 1815 (estimate: £3,000-5,000) and a spectacular Gustavian ormolu and glass eight light chandelier from the late 18th century (estimate: £25,000-35,000). Decorative items for the modern interior include an Empire ormolu and musical mantel clock for the Turkish market, *circa* 1815 (estimate: £5,000-8,000); a French bronze bust of the Roman Emperor Caracalla, *circa* 1880 (estimate: £2,000-3,000) and a pair of bronze models of the

Warwick vase, *circa* 1870 (estimate: £800-1,200).

Reflecting the Russian flavour of Hermitage Antiques includes a Russian giltwood and gesso console table, second quarter 19th century (estimate: £4,000-6,000); a Russian mahogany three fold screen from the early 19th century (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and an imposing Russian Karelian birch seven piece suite, second half 19th century (estimate: £10,000-15,000). Russian paintings include hand coloured engravings of Alexander Premier, Emperor of Russia; and Alexandria, Empress of Russia , Russian School, 19th century (estimate: £1,200-1,800) together with portraits by German artist Rudolf Friedrich Karl Suhrlandt of Friedrich Franz I, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1756-1837) (estimate: £3,500-4,500) and a portrait of Mrs Campion, Rachel, daughter of Richard Duffield from the circle of William Larkin (Fl.*circa*.1580s-1690) (estimate: £5,000-8,000).

Even though Bernard Vieux-Pernon has decided to close Hermitage Antiques and to sell the collection at Christie's South Kensington, he now wants to deal differently. He will carry on dealing in antiques, and sourcing pieces for his clients, both private and trade.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's website at www.christies.com

Public Viewing:

Saturday 1 April: 10am – 4pm
Sunday 2 April: 10am – 4pm
Monday 3 April: 9am – 8.30pm
Tuesday 4 April: 9am – End of Sale

Christie's South Kensington
85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LD

Sale: Tuesday 4th April 2006, 10.30am

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD
Public Enquiries: 020 7930 6074

Christie's South Kensington is open seven days a week with monthly sales for the home on Sundays. Throughout 2006, Christie's South Kensington will hold 22 weeks of Interior Sales which bundle together all the regular home furnishing auctions over one week in the single easy, magazine style catalogue. The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. With prices ranging from £200 to over £20,000, the average price at Christie's South Kensington is £1,000. Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection