

For Immediate Release

28 February 2005

Contact: Zoë Schoon 020.7752.3121 zschoon@christies.com

CRUISE DOWN TO CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON EXCITING JOURNEYS TO DISTANT LANDS

Vintage Posters – Shipping
Christie's, South Kensington
Sunday 15 May - 11.30am

South Kensington – The glamorous and evocative world of early 20th century travel will be revealed at Christie's South Kensington's popular Vintage Poster Sale on Sunday 15th May. Among the 350 lots of posters on offer (estimates range from £200 to over £2,000), a superb private collection of 45 posters depicting cruising in the early part of the 20th century will be offered. Giving a tantalising glimpse into ocean travel when it was in its heyday, the collection also features posters for cargo ships and a huge selection of routes from a time when the main way to travel was by boat. You'll find yourself carried away by the nostalgia of exciting journeys to exotic lands, and maybe find yourself wishing that modern life was slightly slower paced!

Samuel Cunard, one of the names arguably most synonymous with the golden age of cruising, was the business man charged by Queen Victoria to make sure mail was transported to and from America and Canada. In the years that followed, these mail steamers were known as the quickest way to get across the ocean and the early cruise industry was born. Many of the old liners featured in this collection are Cunard's star ships, including the Mauretania, the Berengaria and the Aquitania who specifically served the North Atlantic. Intricately built, these ships really were floating palaces of style, glamour and romance. The Berengaria and Aquitania were the jewels in Cunard's crown for many years. The Mauretania and its famous sister the Lucitania were built almost entirely for speed, and the former became renowned as one of the quickest ways of crossing the Atlantic. In fact it was her speed that saved her from a torpedo during World War One. Estimates for posters of these famous ships start at £700.

Fond memories of trips to Sydney in Australia will be evoked by a beautiful illustration of one of the Orient Lines ships passing under the Sydney Harbour bridge (estimate: £1,500 – 2,000). This will have been the culmination of a journey of many weeks, via exotic locations such as Malta, Port Said and Colombo. The Orient Line later became P&O and was the first company to begin offering cruise programmes from 1904. Many other destinations are also featured through the posters in the sale, including the West Indies, Panama, West Africa and beyond. With prices starting at £300 and the sale on a Sunday, there couldn't be an easier time buy a poster to furnish a home, or perhaps as a gift or a memento of a cherished holiday destination.

###

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

- Christie's South Kensington holds 3 vintage posters sales a year is the only international auction house to specialise in this category. Christie's first poster sale took place in 1982.

In 2005 Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, will have the following opening hours:

Monday - 9am to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Open for Weekend Shopping on Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays.

Viewing Dates:

Friday 13th May 9am – 5pm

Saturday 14th May 10am – 5pm

Christie's South Kensington is now open seven days a week with regular new sales on Sundays. 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.

Christie's South Kensington is also famed for its popular collectible sales including Toys, Teddy Bears, Cameras, and Costumes, Posters, Film, Football and Pop Memorabilia to name just a few! If you are looking for a little luxury from as little as £200, regular sales of Vintage Jewellery, Fashion and Fine Wines also regularly appear on the auction calendar. For those contemplating selling, Christie's expertise is available 7 days a week, free of charge, at the Valuation Counter to advise you on the current market value for your works of art.