

For Immediate Release

August 8, 2002

Contact: *Benedetta Roux* 212.636.2680 broux@christies.com

**FABULOUS PRIVATE COLLECTION OF FINE CHINESE ARCHAIC BRONZES
HEADS SALE OF CHINESE ART AT CHRISTIE'S**

*Fine Chinese Archaic Bronzes, Ceramics and Works of Art
September 20, 2002*

New York – Following the sale of the Dr. S.Y. Yip Collection of Fine and Important Classical Chinese Furniture, Christie's will present a second auction of Chinese art, offering a splendid array of objects ranging from rare and massive archaic bronzes from a private collection to fine and unusual scholars' objects from the collection of Robert H. Ellsworth.

Property of an East Asia Family Collection

An astounding ensemble of archaic bronzes from a private collection will be one of the highlights of the sale. The centerpiece of the collection is a finely cast bronze wine vessel and cover, you, late Shang/early Western Zhou dynasty (12th-11th century BC), with a silvery patina (estimate on request). Also included is a very rare bronze set of a pouring vessel and basin, he and pan, Western Zhou dynasty (1100-771 BC), with matching motifs of long-tailed birds (\$800,000-1,000,000). An important and massive bronze tripod ritual vessel, ding, late Shang/early Western Zhou dynasty (12th-11th century BC) further complements this collection. The ding is prominently decorated with a large mask with coiled ram's horns, whirling dragons, and a lapis and pale green patina (\$1,500,000-1,800,000).

Jades

Complementing the bronze section is a beautiful selection of jade objects - in early China both were symbols of wealth and power. Particularly attractive are a translucent white jade bowl and cover

from the Qianlong period (1736–1795). The bowl displays in low relief four of the Buddhist Emblems, with the remaining four carved on the domed cover (estimate: \$100,000–150,000). An immense piece of superior quality green jade was required to sculpt an unusually large and important brush-pot, bitong, Qianlong period (estimate: \$100,000–150,000). Its substantial form is finely and deeply carved with scenes of figures in a mountainous landscape.

Song dynasty

An exceptionally fine dingyao carved brush-washer is a highlight in a strong section of Song ceramics (estimate: \$100,000–120,000). This piece dates back to the Northern Song dynasty (11th–12th century) and the interior reveals a subtle carving of a coiled chi dragon while inside and out are covered with a glaze of ivory tone shading to pale olive.

Property of The Howard Gilman Foundation

Howard Gilman, Chairman of Gilman Paper Company, was a dedicated philanthropist and art-lover. An accomplished equestrian, he had a special interest in horses as a subject matter in his collecting. A fine group of Chinese pottery figures of horses from his collection is included in the auction, led by a rare and powerful sancai-glazed caparisoned Ferghana horse wearing a saddle and an unusually-textured blanket (estimate: \$150,000–180,000). Also included is a pair of glazed buff pottery figures of uncaparisoned Tang horses (estimate: \$150,000–200,000).

Property from a West Coast Institution

A tour de force of carving, a rare signed carved bamboo mountain, 17th–18th century, depicting numerous scenes of immortals, scholars and attendants amidst pavilions and trees in the Kunlun mountains, will be offered (estimate: \$30,000–50,000) along with a gilt-bronze archaic double vase from the Qianlong period and with a four-character mark within a square (estimate: \$20,000–30,000).

Robert H. Ellsworth Collection of Scholars' Objects

Scholars' objects of excellent quality are rarely seen on the market. Among the offerings from Robert H. Ellsworth's personal collection are an 18th century bamboo and hongmu pillow or armrest, pingji (estimate: \$8,000–10,000); a zitan, baitong and jadeite-mounted smoking pipe (estimate: \$5,000–7,000) and two rare zitan scroll weights, 17th–18th century (estimate: \$8,000–10,000).

The sale will also include the Niliuzhai Collection of Classical Chinese Rocks, bringing for the first time ever, an entire private collection of scholars' rocks to the salesroom (see separate release).

The Dr. S.Y. Yip Collection of Fine and Important Classical Chinese Furniture, featuring iconic forms of Ming and early Qing dynasty (late 16th–18th centuries) furniture, will commence the series of Chinese art sales on September 20 at 10 a.m. (separate release available).

*Auction: Fine Chinese Archaic Bronzes, Ceramics
and Works of Art*

*September 20 at approximately
11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

September 10 - 19

#

*Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com*