

For Immediate Release
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PIPE DREAMS AT CHRISTIE'S

The Private Collection of Pipes, Tobacco Jars & Books of Mr. Alfred Dunhill



A Meerschaum pipe bowl, circa 1880
Estimate: £800-1,200

Furniture & Decorative Objects including The Private Collection of Pipes, Tobacco Jars & Books of Mr. Alfred Dunhill

Wednesday 12 May 2004 at 10.30am

South Kensington – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of one of the most comprehensive collections of smoking paraphernalia ever to appear at auction in London. Amassed over some 30 to 40 years, the private collection of Mr Alfred Dunhill, the quintessential English inventor, features the most superb array of pipes, tobacco jars and antiquarian books. Sure to whet the appetite of tobacco aficionados around the world, the

120-lot collection is expected to fetch in excess of £50,000 with individual estimates ranging from £100 to £5,000.

Alfred Dunhill

Alfred Dunhill (1872–1959), founder and former chairman of Alfred Dunhill Ltd., was born in London in 1872. The son of Henry Dunhill, he was apprenticed to his father’s harness-making business in London at the age of 15. In his early twenties, he took over and expanded the business and opened his first shop in Conduit Street, Dunhill’s Motorities, which specialised in accessories and clothing for motorists.

*By 1907, Alfred Dunhill had successfully established his first tobacconist’s shop in Duke Street, with the first Dunhill pipe appearing in 1912. As his business developed rapidly, Alfred Dunhill was simultaneously building up his own private collection of smoking paraphernalia, which he displayed in a vitrine in the shop. In 1924, he published the definitive volume, *The Pipe Book* – still an invaluable reference tool for tobacco historians today. Several of the pieces illustrated in this book will be included in the Christie’s sale.*

The wealth and scope of Alfred Dunhill’s private collection is incredible. Pipes originating from every corner of the world including examples from Europe, China, Japan and Africa will feature alongside a remarkable range of Staffordshire, Cypriot and Delft tobacco jars of all dates, shapes and sizes. The sale also includes a substantial collection of antiquarian books.

Highlights

Pipes

The Islamic section includes a 19th century large Turkish topane clay pipe (estimate: £400–600), while a selection of Japanese tonkotsu (tobacco pouches), Kiseruzutsu (pipe cases) and pipes made from various mediums such as bamboo and stag antler and decorated with animals, warriors, birds and flowers may fetch £800–1,200 (one lot). A collection of Chinese opium pipes and various fittings are expected to realize up to £500. Tribal pieces include an Eastern Plains Catlinite pipe bowl carved as a horse (estimate: £800–1,200) and many Zulu pipes ranging in estimate from £300 to £800 (per lot).

Tobacco Jars

A pair of late 18th century Delft blue and white oviform tobacco jars (estimate: £3,000–£5,000), a pair of Doulton stoneware tobacco storage jars, circa 1900 (estimate: £200–

£300), a Staffordshire Prattware pipe, circa 1800 (£500-800) and a collection of German and Continental porcelain pipe bowls (£400-600) are amongst the lots on offer.

Books

Notable lots include: William Bragge, *Bibliotheca Nicotiana; a First Catalogue of Books About Tobacco, 1874* (estimate: £2,000-3,000); Tobias Venner, *A Brief and Accurate Treatise Concerning the taking of the Fume of Tobacco* (estimate: £1,000-2,000).

Miscellaneous

A Scottish Mauchline ware burr yew wood table snuff box, the cover depicting revellers imbibing and smoking in a riotous tavern scene, circa 1930 (estimate: £500-800); a collection of various pipe tampers, including a silver mounted ivory example modelled as a human finger, mid 19th century (estimate: £300-500); a framed set of four Virginia and Havana tobacco leaf specimens, early 20th century (estimate: £300-500).

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Note to Editors:

PLEASE NOTE: *There are no Dunhill-branded products included in The Private Collection of Mr Alfred Dunhill*

The Chicagoland International Pipe and Tobacciana Show – 15 & 16 May 2004

Alfred Dunhill: The Pipe Book, 1924 – available to purchase as a reprint [The Lyons Press]

The collection of Dunhill-branded antique products is housed at 48-50 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX.

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