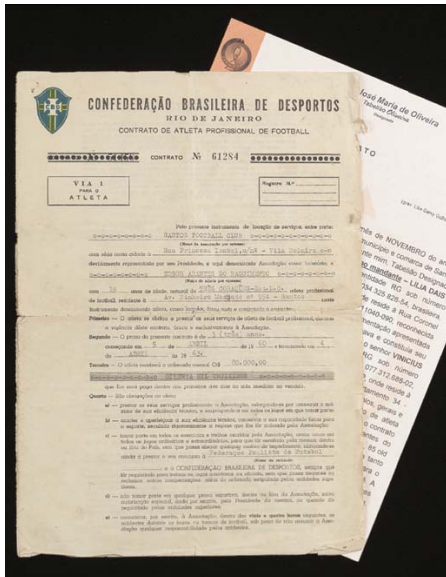


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SOCCKER SUPERSTARS

Football Memorabilia
Wednesday 26 March at 10.30am



Pelé's 1960 Santos F.C. contract
Estimate: £10,000-15,000

South Kensington, London – Christie's announces the first Football Memorabilia sale of 2003, to be held on 26 March at South Kensington. Featuring over 320 lots, the sale is expected to realize in excess of £250,000 and offers fans, collectors and clubs across the world the opportunity to snap up some of the finest football shirts, caps, medals, cups, programmes and other related ephemera from the world's favourite game.

Since Christie's successful sale of Pelé's 1970 World Cup Final shirt last year for £157,750, interest in memorabilia relating to the world's greatest footballer has surged and this sale contains some fascinating lots relating to milestones in the legendary Brazilian's career. An original contract entered into by Pelé and Santos F.C. is an intriguing highlight. Signed and dated 5th April 1960, the contract ran for three years and terminated in April 1963. Estimated at £10,000-15,000, this may be the earliest existing example of a Pelé

contract. Another fascinating lot is a pair of black leather football boots worn by the Brazilian when he scored his 1000th career goal playing for Santo F.C. in a match against Vasco da Gama, played on 19th November 1969 at the Maracana Stadium. Estimated at £8,000–12,000, the left sole bears a white-metal plaque inscribed 13 – Pelé's locker number badge that was taken from the dressing room and attached to the boot after the match.

Brazilian highlights also include two shirts from the 1958 World Cup Final. Both shirts are estimated at £15,000–20,000 and were worn by Zito and Vava, who scored two goals in the final played in Stockholm against the Swedes, Brazil going on to win 5–2. Current Brazilian superstars, including Footballer of the World Cup 2002, Ronaldo, also feature. To be sold on behalf of the World Heart Federation, Ronaldo lots include a pair of match-worn boots, estimated at £1,000–1,500, and a short-sleeve Brazil International shirt, worn in a match after his successful World Cup and estimated at £1,000–1,500. Another notable World Cup 2002 highlight is David Beckham's spare shirt from the epic group stage encounter with Argentina; it carries an estimate of £2,000–3,000.

Historical English highlights include the J.R. Richardson collection. Richardson played for Newcastle United and England in the 1920s and 1930s and played in the infamous 1932 F.A. Cup Final. Richardson's cross to Jack Allen in the Arsenal area resulted in a goal that restored confidence to a Newcastle side that went on to win the game. The collection features Richardson's F.A. Cup Winners medal from that game (estimate: £4,000–6,000) and the shirt he wore in the final (estimate: £2,500–3,500).

Other English F.A. Cup highlights include a 1921 F.A. Cup Winners medal presented to Spurs' legend Jimmy Dimmock (estimate: £6,000–8,000) who captained Spurs and scored the only goal of the match and a presentation watch given to him by the club to celebrate that famous victory (estimate: £800–1,200). Estimated at £8,000–12,000, an extremely rare 1915 F.A. Cup Final programme will also attract much attention; the only Final to be played during the First World War, the match became known as the Khaki Cup Final and was a very sombre affair, with the stands full of injured soldiers who had returned from the front. Depicting the magic of the Cup, a Charles Ernest Cundall oil painting of A Cup Tie at Crystal Palace, Corinthians v. Manchester City, 1926 is estimated at £15,000–20,000 and will also be sought after, as such examples are extremely rare. European Cup highlights include two Winners Medals from the 1968 and 1982 Finals, estimated at £10,000–15,000 and £6,000–8,000 respectively. Both medals were won by Jimmy Rimmer, who remains the only English player to have won the finals with two different clubs, first with Manchester United and then with Aston Villa.

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*Email Images available on request
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