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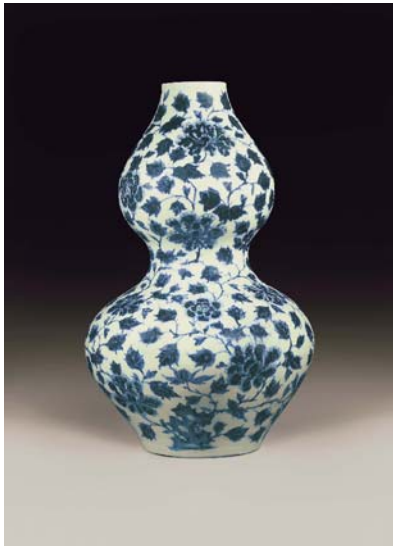
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Contact: Bendetta Roux

212.636.2680

broux@christies.com

**EXQUISITE DOUBLE-GOURD BLUE AND WHITE VASE
HIGHLIGHTS CHRISTIE'S SALE OF CHINESE ART**



Important Chinese Snuff Bottles from the J&J Collection, Part III

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of art

March 29, 2005

New York – On March 29, Christie's New York will start its trilogy of Chinese Art sales with the single-owner sale *Important Chinese Snuff Bottles from the J&J Collection, Part III* which will immediately be followed by *The Collection of Evelyn Annenberg Hall: Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* (separate release). The afternoon session will be devoted to Chinese art from all different epochs and styles, offering works of art from several private collections and is expected to realize in excess of \$10,000,000.

Important Chinese Snuff Bottles from the J&J Collection, Part III

Li Ti-Tsun, a distinguished educator and Chinese Ambassador to numerous countries in South America, started avidly collecting snuff bottles in the first half of the 20th century. His enthusiasm was carried on by his family, who expanded and refined the group, culminating in what came to be known as the world-famous J&J Collection. Christie's very successfully offered Parts I and II of the collection in Hong Kong and New York and will present Part III on March 29, offering yet again a wonderful opportunity to new and established collectors to acquire some of the best examples of snuff bottles to come to market. Highlights include the double-gourd glass bottle (estimate: \$300,000-350,000), exquisitely painted with bats and blossoming vines of morning glory, the copper



bottle enameled with paired pheasants (estimate: \$200,000-250,000), and the double-gourd porcelain bottle decorated with fruiting gourd vines (estimate: \$120,000-180,000), all products of the Beijing Imperial workshops which display the exquisite craftsmanship expected of objects made exclusively for the Emperor and the court. Three other bottles – the crystal bottle painted on the interior with a portrait (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), the



exceptional black and white jade bottle (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and the elegant stoneware bottle painted with a landscape in brown slip (estimate: \$70,000-90,000) – display great novelty and innovative decorative techniques.

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

The ceramics section of the sale offers a tantalizing run through the history of Chinese ceramics, starting with Tang dynasty (618-907) wares including a rare pair of large sancai-glazed Bactrian camels (estimate: \$250,000-350,000) as well as a pair of massive painted red pottery figures of horses (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). From the Southern Song dynasty (12th – 13th century) is a pair of Jizhou 'guri'-style pear-shaped vases (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). This pair is exceedingly rare on many fronts: the decoration is beautifully executed, the coloration is unusually successful, and the elegant shapes and fluted mouths reveal a sophistication that is rarely encountered.

Moving into the Yuan dynasty (mid 14th century), the sale offers a spectacular highlight: a large, early blue and white double-gourd vase (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000) which combines a monumental form with a dramatic decoration, painted in a deep, brilliant, cobalt blue. Few examples of this shape and size have survived, and the closest comparable is in the Topkapi Museum collection and is a vase which also shows the use of a single motif of a freely disposed, undulating peony scroll. The extraordinary richness of the cobalt blue and the extravagant use of precious cobalt by the decorator are other indications of the importance of the piece, suggesting once more that it was a special commission for a patron of considerable social standing.

Further ceramics highlights include a rare blue and white ‘dice’ bowl, Xuande mark and of the period (1426-1435) (estimate: \$300,000-500,000), decorated with an unusual rose motif; a rare anhua-decorated blue and white conical bowl, Xuande mark and of the period (estimate: \$100,000-150,000); and a select group of impressive Qing dynasty porcelains, Property of an Important Far Eastern Collector, including a purple and lavender-glazed pear-shaped vase, Yongzheng mark and of the period (1723-1735) (estimate: \$120,000-150,000) and a crackle-glazed mallet vase, Qianlong mark and of the period (1736-1795) (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

The sale also features choice works of art, including two outstanding rhinoceros horn carvings: one a late Ming dynasty (17th century) raft-form pouring vessel (estimate: 100,000-150,000) and the second a superbly carved peach-form libation cup (18th century) (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). The cloisonné enamel section features a rare Ming ritual vessel, *kundika* (early 15th century) (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) and an 18th century pair of qilin-form censers (estimate: \$150,000-180,000).



An extraordinary woven *Mabakala* thangka, 1402-1424 is another splendid example of innovative technique and impeccable craftsmanship (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). This thangka is staggering in its technical and aesthetic accomplishment in that it required an entire team of weavers, technicians and artisans to create. The investment in labor and material was enormous and reflects the thangka’s importance.

A center piece of the furniture section is a huanghuali luohan bed with open railings, *luobanchuang*, 17th century (estimate: \$350,000-400,000). Similar beds could be found as part of formal seating arrangements in a reception hall or in the more intimate environment of a scholar’s studio. The openwork railings, imitating bamboo, provide a strong and appealing visual effect.

A rare painted marble figure of a bodhisattva, Northern Zhou period/Sui dynasty, formerly in the collection of Stephen Junkunc III (estimate: \$280,000-350,000), which is shown standing atop an oval lotus pedestal, radiates benevolence and contemplation. The luscious, three-dimensional jewelry worn by the figure is typical of these Northern Zhou/Sui figures and may reflect influence of Gupta India.



From an Important American Private Collection is an extraordinarily rare large painted wood figure of a horse, Han dynasty (206 BC – AD 220) (estimate: \$280,000-350,000). The powerful yet elegant figure is carved standing with turned head, open mouth, slightly bulging eyes and pricked ears.

Auction: Important Chinese Snuff Bottles from the J&J Collection, Part III

March 29 at approx.
11 a.m.

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

March 29 at 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

March 24 - 28

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Images available on request

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

More information about Christie's sales of *Important Chinese Snuff Bottles from the J&J Collection and Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.