

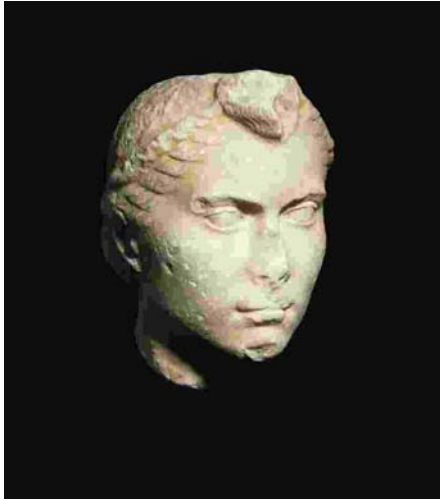
For Immediate Release

11 March 2005

Contact: Rhiannon Bevan-John 020.7752.3120

rbevan-john@christies.com

FACES FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD



A Hellenistic marble portrait bust of Cleopatra the Great (69-30 B.C.) (estimate: £300,000-500,000)

A European Private Collection

20th April 2005 at 10am

Antiquities

20th April 2005 at 2pm

London, King Street – Christie's London is pleased to announce two sales dedicated to Antiquities to be held on 20 April 2005, including a single owner collection which is expected to fetch £750,000. Ranging from 3000 B.C to 300 A.D. the sales span the ancient Egyptian, Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds, with estimates from £300 to £500,000.

Antiquities

Leading the **Antiquities** sale on the 20th April is a Hellenistic marble portrait bust of one of the most famous Queens from antiquity – Cleopatra the Great or Cleopatra Philopator VII (69-30 B.C.) (estimate: £300,000-500,000). The portrait was previously in the collection of the antiquarian, Maurice Nahman (1868-1948). Loved by Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, Cleopatra changed the course of history forever, marking the end of Hellenistic power in the East and the rise of Rome and its empire at the closing end of the 1st century B.C.

Her appearance is best described by Plutarch: *“For her actual beauty, it is said, was not in itself so remarkable that none compared with her, or that no one could see her without being struck by it, but the*

*contact of her presence, if you lived with her, was irresistible; the attraction of her person... and the character that attended all she said or did, was something bewitching.” (Plutarch, *Lives*, Antony, 27. 3-4).*

Other highlights from the sale include a wide-ranging collection of Roman glass from the Late Professor E.T. Hall, with estimates from £500 to £6,000, and 60 lots of ancient animals – from goats and geese to pigs, dogs and rabbits – from the collection of the late Dr. Leo Mildenberg with estimates starting from £300. (Part One of the collection sold at Christie’s London for £ 3.6 million in October 2004).

**Faces from the Ancient World:
A European Private Collection**

Formed over 30 years, this single owner collection was predominately acquired on the French and Swiss markets from leading dealers such as Herbert Cahn and Leo Mildenberg.

The collection includes striking images from Antiquity - in a variety of materials including bronze, faience, terracotta and glass, with estimates from £300 to £300,000. These, however, are not the faces of remote, idealised gods or powerful rulers, but the faces of ordinary people. Ranging in date from 3000 B.C to 300 A.D. they span the ancient Egyptian, Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds.

Highlights include a Near Eastern limestone profile relief head of a Persian guardsman, mounting the stairway of Xerxes’s Palace at Persepolis. Dating to the 5th century B.C. it carries an estimate of £200,000-300,000 and was acquired from the early 20th century Hagop Kevorkian collection. .

An ivory head of a beautiful Syrian woman wearing elaborate earrings is one example of many small heads in the collection (estimate: £40,000-60,000). This piece was once in the collection of Henri Seyrig (1895-1973), the numismatist, archaeologist and French historian of antiquity.

From the Greek world comes humour in the form of a pottery crone-headed flask (estimate: £1,500-2,500), a terracotta theatrical mask (estimate: £1,500-2,500) and a bronze figure of a fighting pygmy (estimate: £5,000-8,000). A section of Greek vases, includes an Attic krater of the 6th Century B.C., painted with Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and revelry, staring out from between two protective eyes (estimate: £30,000-50,000)

####

Images available on request
Visit Christie’s at www.christies.com

Notes for Editors:

Viewing:

Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT

Friday 15 April 9am -4.30pm

Sunday 17 April 2pm-5pm

Monday 18 April 9am-4.30pm

Tuesday 19 April 9am-8pm

Sales:

- Faces from the Ancient World: A European Private Collection: Wednesday 20 April at 10.30 am
- Antiquities: Wednesday 20 April at approx.11.30 am and 2.30 pm

Christie's London holds the world auction record of £7,926,650 for the Jenkins Venus from Newby Hall, England. This Roman marble statue was sold in 2002 for the highest price ever achieved for any antiquity at auction. Christie's offers ancient art from the dawn of civilization to the Dark Ages, ranging from Western Europe to the Caspian Sea, embracing the cultures of Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East. Sales are held four times a year, two in New York and two in London.