

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S SHOWCASES RARE & IMPORTANT
TIMEPIECES IN APRIL**



Blancpain, a rare platinum and diamond Blancpain Tourbillon wristwatch
\$80,000-120,000



Patek Philippe, a rare 18K gold perpetual calendar wristwatch, reference 2438/1
\$250,000-400,000



Patek Philippe, a fine and rare stainless steel chronograph wristwatch, reference 1463
\$180,000-280,000

**Important Watches
24 April 2008**

New York — Following Christie's record breaking year in 2007 with worldwide sales for watches of \$88 million dollars, including the two most successful sales for this category in the United States to date, the *Important Watch* auction in New York on April 24 will offer 264 exceptional timepieces. Many of the items are not only exceedingly rare and historically important, but fresh to the market. The sale will present collectors with a wide variety of timepieces catering to a multitude of tastes including vintage and modern, rare, and highly complicated pieces by celebrated makers such as Patek Philippe, Rolex, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Audemars Piguet, Vacheron Constantin. Other featured lots include a selection of watches owned by well-known individuals such as Joe DiMaggio, the former New York City Mayor, Edward I. Koch, Hugh D. Auchincloss and more.

Patek Philippe features strongly in the sale, leading with two rare Patek Philippe wristwatches which are fresh to the auction block. First is a rare 18k gold water-resistant perpetual calendar wristwatch produced in a total of only 179 examples (reference 2438/1) (estimate: \$250,000-400,000). Another Patek Philippe offered is a fine stainless steel chronograph wristwatch with Breguet numerals from

1949 (reference 1463) (estimate: \$180,000-280,000). The superb condition in combination with its interesting provenance, originally owned Shelby H. Curlee, a member of the family of the famed Curlee Clothing Company, presents a true collector's find.

Modern highlights including a rare platinum and diamond Blancpain Tourbillon wristwatch, created in 2001 following the purchase of Blancpain by the Swatch Group, to reflect the tradition of the Blancpain name (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Another example of note is the platinum Patek Philippe perpetual calendar wristwatch, circa 2006, new in its box, as it would have come from the factory (reference 5059) (estimate: \$60,000-80,000).

The sale is complemented by a selection of historically interesting wristwatches including timepieces belonging to former New York City Mayor Edward Koch and baseball hero Joe DiMaggio. A Wittnauer stainless steel wristwatch, circa 1962, features the engraving, "*OLD TIMER'S DAY, 7-28-62, JOE DIMAGGIO*" (estimate: \$2,000-3,000). DiMaggio made his debut with the Yankees on May 3, 1936 and quickly established himself as one of the greatest player's that the game had ever seen, helping to propel the team to garner nine world series titles during his thirteen year career. The present watch was presented to Joe DiMaggio on July 28, 1962 at Old Timers' Day. This long-standing Major League Baseball tradition, most commonly associated with the New York Yankees, was initially conceived in the late 1930s as a day to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of baseball greats. Given the enduring greatness of his career, it is only fitting that Joe DiMaggio was recognized with this accolade.



From the former mayor of New York City is an Omega wristwatch (reference no. 198.031), circa 1970, that is accompanied by a letter written by Edward I. Koch on his personal stationary dated January 7, 2007 (estimate: \$2,000-4,000). The letter explains that the present watch was purchased by Mr. Koch during the early 1970s in Switzerland when he was on a Congressional trip. Most memorable amongst his roles of distinguished political service was his position as the 105th Mayor of New York City where he served three consecutive terms (1978 -1989).

The sale also presents a selection for sale from a private collector including many timepieces by Patek Philippe and Cartier. The collection features a wide variety of wristwatches primarily from the 1960s to the 1980s. These watches are most noticeable for their excellent condition, purchased and brought to auction by the original owner, many with little if any wear as they are preserved in their original state. One such highlight is a rare gold



automatic wristwatch with date by Patek Philippe (reference no. 3445/100) that is presented as new (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).

Auction: *Important Watches*

24 April 2008

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

19-23 April

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*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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More information about Christie's sale of *Watches* 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.