

For Immediate Release

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EXCEPTIONAL PRIVATE COLLECTIONS TO HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S SALE OF IMPORTANT ENGLISH FURNITURE

Important English Furniture, including a Collection from a New York Townhouse and Other Notable Property April 15

New York, NY – Christie's sale of *Important English Furniture, including a Collection from a New York Townhouse and Other Notable Property* on April 15 will offer rich and varied private collections presenting unique and important pieces that reflect the collectors' exquisite taste and connoisseurship. From simple and elegant to bold and impressive, the collections offered this season each lend a particular focus and character.

The exquisite collection from a landmark New York townhouse will offer excellent examples of Neoclassical furniture produced in the late 18th century that display a skilled execution apparent in the finely inlaid marquetry, carving and painting. The backdrop for this remarkable collection is an Upper East Side townhouse designed by renowned architect Mott B. Schmidt for Miss Emily Trevor in 1926. The house was modeled after a Georgian Mayfair townhouse and features formal reception rooms with plaster relief-molded ceilings and original Italian paintings, and an elegant drawing room inspired by prominent architect Robert Adam's Great Room at Kenwood House in Hampstead Heath.

Complementing the elaborate architecture of the New York townhouse is a superb and highly desirable group of late Georgian satinwood and marquetry, giltwood and carved mahogany furniture. Each piece was chosen by the collector for its fine craftsmanship and unusual form and is attributed to top London cabinetmakers such as Thomas Chippendale, John Cobb and,

predominantly, Mayhew and Ince. A richly flowered George III sycamore, rosewood and marquetry commode, circa 1775 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), exemplifies the French 'antique' style, which was introduced in the 1750s for fashionable dressing-room apartments, and once formed part of the extraordinary collection of Sunlight soap magnate Lord Leverhulme. Of the four pembroke tables offered, the most elegant and unusual is a George III sycamore, tulipwood, rosewood and marquetry pembroke piece, circa 1780 (estimate: \$60,000-90,000), that bears the coat of arms of the Masterman family of Riccal, Yorkshire. Also highlighting the collection are six Georgian mahogany and polychrome-painted hall chairs that are attributed to Mayhew and Ince and probably carved by Sefferin Alken, who also worked for Robert Adam, circa 1775 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000, for each pair). These unique and stunning hall chairs were originally commissioned by the 4th Viscount Middleton for Peper Harrow in Surrey under the direction of William Chambers, who claimed himself to be "really a very pretty connoisseur in furniture."

A gentleman's collection of similar taste features an extraordinary pair of George III giltwood torchères, circa 1770 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), among other treasures. These early Neoclassical examples are in the manner of Robert Adam and were formerly owned by Lord Marks, the proprietor of Marks and Spencer.

From the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Saunderson is a pair of George II giltwood brackets, attributed to the masterful designer and carver Mathias Lock, mid-18th century (estimate: \$50,000-80,000). Spectacularly carved and impressive in scale, these brackets exhibit the full Rococo taste. The Saundersons furnished their Santa Barbara home with wonderful inherited and collected objects from Castle Saunderson in Ireland as well as from Wakehurst, the Van Alen 'cottage' in Newport, Rhode Island (now part of Salve Regina College).

Certainly appealing to New York collectors are a boldly designed mid-Georgian ormolu-mounted mahogany reading table, circa 1755 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000) and an unusual Regency ormolu-mounted and brass-inlaid rosewood revolving library bookstand, circa 1810 (estimate: \$120,000-180,000). The extraordinary bookstand was commissioned by the 6th Duke of Leeds for his notable country estate, Hornsby Castle in Yorkshire, and was recorded to be in the "third drawing room leading from the Grand Staircase."

Other noteworthy property offered includes a Charles II silk-embroidered casket with its original embossed leather case, circa 1660 (estimate: \$50,000-80,000), from the Estate of Dr. Bernhard H. Breslauer, a renowned antiquarian bookseller and collector; a pair of magnificent George II giltwood library armchairs that form part of a larger well-known suite, circa 1755 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), from a private California collection; and a pair of George III ormolu and blue-

john candlesticks by Matthew Boulton, circa 1770 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), from the collection of Denys Sutton, the long-reigning editor of *Apollo* magazine.

Auction:	Important English Furniture, including a Collection from a New York Townhouse and Other Notable Property	April 15
Viewing:	Christie's Galleries at 20 Rockefeller Plaza	April 7-14

More information about Christie's sale of *Important English Furniture, including a Collection from a New York Townhouse and Other Notable Property* 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.

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