

For Immediate Release

22 March 2005

Contact Zoë Schoon 020.7752.3121 zschoon@christies.com

VINTAGE LIBERTY AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

Liberty & Co.

Thursday, 30 June 2005

South Kensington – An eye-catching collection of over 200 lots of vintage Liberty & Co items will be offered at Christie's South Kensington in conjunction with the Arts & Crafts sale on 30 June 2005. Christie's is the only auction house to hold a specialist Arts & Crafts sale, and with Liberty being one of the main influencers in this movement, the day of sales will pay homage to this highly collectable and desirable field, with estimates ranging from £200 to £15,000.

The whole oeuvre of Liberty's production will be represented, from metalwork, ceramics, and glass to furniture, textiles, carpets and jewellery. A single-owner collection of Cymric silver and Tudric pewter wares forms the core of the sale, with the majority of these items designed by Archibald Knox, who was arguably Liberty & Co.'s most prolific and successful designer. Highlights from the sale include:

- A Tudric pewter and abalone clock designed by Archibald Knox (estimate: £10,000-15,000)
- A Tudric pewter rose bowl with Clutha Glass liner (estimate: £3,000-4,000)
- A pair of pewter candelabra (estimate: £2,000-4,000)

In September 2003, Christie's held the first-ever auction devoted to wares retailed by Liberty's which realised over £250,000, a fitting tribute to an institution that championed progressive design at the turn of the 20th century.

Established on Regent Street in 1875 by Arthur Lasenby Liberty (1843-1917), Liberty's was a major force in the development of the Arts and Crafts movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its designers originally took their inspiration from the Orient, and later, Celtic tradition and medieval values, with a dash of bohemia were thrown in. Liberty soon became a byword for style and elegance and within five years was large enough for seven departments including silks, embroidery, furniture, carpets, curios and miscellany. As the store's success continued to grow, it encompassed the beauty of Arts and Crafts design and Art Nouveau. By 1894, the Company was credited with creating an entirely new taste in decoration and style and Arthur Liberty was knighted for his services to British and Applied Arts in 1913.

###

Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

- The Victoria & Albert Museum's International Arts & Crafts exhibition, runs from 17 March to 24 July 2005. Tickets can be obtained by calling 0870 906 3883 / www.vam.ac.uk
- Christie's Decorative Arts department retains a proud tradition of pioneering new sale categories such as Aesthetic Movement, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Liberty, and has held specialist Arts & Crafts sales since 2000. The most expensive lot sold by Christie's Decorative Arts Department, South Kensington was a Christopher Dresser Teapot for £95,000 in July 2004.
- Christie's Catalogues: 020 7389 2820

In 2005 Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, will have the following opening hours:

Monday - 9am to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Open for Weekend Shopping on Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays.

Viewing Dates for Liberty & Co:

Saturday 25 June – Thursday 30 June

The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales more often than any other auction house.

Christie's South Kensington is now open seven days a week with regular new sales on Sundays. The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. With prices ranging from £200 to over £20,000, the average price at Christie's South Kensington is £1,000. Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection.