

For Immediate Release

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FROM A CORONATION TIARA TO HELENA RUBINSTEIN'S NECKLACE

Important and Classic Jewellery at Christie's London in June



Important Jewellery 15 June 2005

London – A magnificent tiara worn at the coronation of both King George VI in 1937 and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and a stylish natural pearl necklace owned by Helena Rubinstein lead Christie's **Important Jewellery** auction on 15 June 2005 at King Street. Catering to a vast audience of international collectors, 150 pieces of exquisite jewellery of exceptional quality will be offered, ranging from £5,000 to £400,000.

Leading the sale is one of the most outstanding and illustrious tiaras of English history which has been in the same family for over 100 years (estimate: £300,000-400,000). Appearing at auction for the first time, the beautiful Harcourt tiara was worn at the 1937 coronation of King George VI by the Dowager Viscountess Harcourt. Her daughter, Lady Ashburton, later wore the same tiara at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Lady Ashburton was the elder sister of William, second Viscount Harcourt. She married the Hon. Alexander Baring, later sixth Baron Ashburton, in 1924, the father of the present owner.

The exquisite tiara is composed of sprays of diamond flowerheads and leaves running between borders of continuous diamond ribbon motifs with the focus centering on seven outstanding emeralds. The tiara was worn by the Dowager Viscountess together with the 'Harcourt

Emeralds' – a magnificent emerald and diamond necklace - which Christie's sold for £1,870,000 in London on 21 June 1989.

A stylish natural coloured pearl necklace owned by Helena Rubinstein (1871-1965), the legendary founder of the eponymous cosmetics business, is a further sale highlight (estimate: £22,000-28,000). Worn by Helena on numerous occasions, the necklace dates from the early 20th century and is a classic example of her chic and sometimes eclectic sense of style.

A dazzling and tantalising selection of diamond jewellery will be offered including a spectacular diamond necklace (estimate: £50,000-70,000); a gorgeous antique emerald and diamond flower brooch (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and a cultured pearl and diamond brooch by Sterlé (estimate: £15,000-20,000). Also included is a delicate diamond, ruby and moss agate dragonfly brooch, *circa* 1900 (estimate: £4,000-6,000) with wings so real that it might at any moment flutter into life and fly away.

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's on the Web at www.christies.com

Christie's London Jewellery 2005 Sales

Jewellery, 26 April (South Kensington)

Antique Jewellery, 17 May (South Kensington)

Fine Jewellery, 8 June (South Kensington)

Important Jewellery, 15 June (King Street)

Jewellery, 12 July (South Kensington)

Jewellery & Rings, 13 September (South Kensington)

Jewellery, 16 October (South Kensington)

Antique Jewellery, 8 November (South Kensington)

Important Jewellery, 23 November (King Street)

Fine Jewellery, 6 December (South Kensington)

Christie's is the world market leader in jewellery with an average of \$230 million of annual sales worldwide. Christie's holds major jewellery sales in Geneva, Hong Kong, London, New York and Paris. Christie's holds many world auction records for jewellery including the record for a pearl necklace with the Barbara Hutton necklace, a single-strand necklace of 41 white pearls which sold for \$1,476,345 in Geneva in November 1999. Christie's jewellery sales cater to a vast audience of international collectors looking to buy a range of magnificent jewellery, from a single pair of ruby-inlaid cufflinks to a 20 carat diamond ring.