

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO CELEBRATE THE DECORATIVE ARTS OF GEORGIAN ENGLAND IN MAY



The Drawing Room showing some of the highlights from the collection

50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England 14 May 2003

London - On 14 May, Christie's London will offer a superb private English collection that celebrates the best of Georgian design and craftsmanship; *50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England*. This auction is the first to be overseen by the newly formed Private Collection and Country House Sale Department, with a second sale, *Park West – The Property of a Private Collector*, to take place on the 22 May. The Georgian period relates to furniture and works of art produced during the reigns of the four English King Georges, 1714-1830, and is characterized by classical inspiration, superlative design and excellent craftsmanship. Assembled by an English family over half a century, this sale features works purchased from the most renowned dealers, with Norman Adams as the guiding force. The Collection is expected to realize in the region of £3-4 million.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Collection is the eye with which the pieces were selected. Arguably, the most renowned craftsman of the Georgiana era was the cabinet-maker, Thomas Chippendale, and this sale boasts no less than six pieces by, or securely attributed to, Chippendale. Most of these objects were acquired when Chippendale studies where in their infancy. A kneehole desk, supplied to Ninian Home for Paxton House, Berwickshire in 1774 at a cost of £6 12s, vividly illustrates Chippendale's mastery of execution, and is one of the highlights of the Collection (estimate: £60,000-100,000). Also from the earlier 18th century is an unusual George I walnut batchelors chest, raised on extremely rare, short cabriole legs, attributed to Giles Grendey (estimate: £100,000-150,000).

The sale also boasts pieces by Chippendale's most successful competitors, the Broad Street partnership of John Mayhew and William Ince. The sophisticated and individual marquetry style developed by Mayhew and Ince in the later 1770s combines finely engraved Antique motifs in black, dramatically contrasted with a lustrous satinwood ground. The demi-lune commode, to be offered, demonstrates how successfully they had perfected this technique (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The same refined engraved detailing appears on the satinwood breakfront bookcase from Northwick Park, Gloucestershire, acquired by Norman Adams for 3,000 gns at Christie's famous house sale in September 1964 (estimate: £100,000-150,000).

The glass section of the sale again demonstrates how the best of advice was sought for the collection, in this case from Martin Mortimer of Delomosne. Pieces range from the exceptionally rare group of English opaque-white glass, made in South Staffordshire, very seldom seen on the market, with the hand of one well-known painter clearly discernible (estimates from £2,500-10,000), to a George III chandelier (estimate: £30,000-50,000) and a pair of George III ormolu and cut-glass temple candelabra, both attributed to the firm of Parker and Perry (estimate: £15,000-25,000).

A group of six ormolu-mounted blue-john and white marble candle vases by Matthew Boulton is another strength of the collection, the majority of which were acquired before the publication of Nicholas Goodison's definitive monograph of 1974 that identified the corpus of his work. An unusually large pair of candle-vases are particularly notable for their colour and figuring (estimate: £60,000-90,000) but the concise group is remarkably illustrative of Boulton's overall production. The Collection also features superb examples of English porcelain, collected from the 1960s onwards, with the advice of Robert Williams, the well-known ceramics dealer.

Viewing

The entire Collection will go on view from 9-13 May 2003 at Christie's King Street

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Images available on request

These auctions will be featured on www.christies.com. A complete illustrated online catalogue will be published with hard copies available to purchase via the site. If a collector is interested in finding any specific works of art for their collection Christie's online search engine Lotfinder® Assistant can immediately source specific forthcoming items of interest.

Notes to Editors

This sale and Park West – The Property of a Private Collector, to be held on 22 May, are the first to be overseen by the newly formed Private Collection and Country House Sale Department. Orlando Rock heads the team, ably assisted by Andrew Waters, Director of the department, both highly experienced specialists. The Private Collection and Country House Sale Department will be concentrating on developing single-owner and special collection sales as well as house sales in the UK, and house sales in those Continental European countries without a dedicated saleroom.

Orlando and Andrew have nearly three decades of experience at Christie's. Orlando joined Christie's in 1990 and was appointed a director of the company in 1997. Orlando has been responsible for the sales of both important French and Continental Furniture and Important English furniture in London and subsequently spent four years in New York. He played an important role in the sale of Works of Art from Houghton, the Bute Collection and the Alexander Collection and most recently was involved in the Longleat sale. Andrew Waters joined the Christie's South Kensington furniture department in 1989. He has been responsible for cataloguing the furniture sections of the Country House sales for many years and notable successes have included Castello de Bendinat in Majorca, the Manor House at Clifton Hampden and, most recently, the ambitious Tyntesfield project.

Furniture Sales at Christie's London in 2003

Important English Furniture	10 April
50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England	14 May
Park West – The Property of a Private Collector	22 May
Boulle To Jansen - An Important Private European Collection (evening sale)	11 June
Boulle To Jansen - An Important Private European Collection (day sale)	12 June
Important European Furniture and Sculpture	12 June
Important English Furniture	10 July
Fine English Furniture	18 September
Fine European Furniture	13 November
Important English Furniture	27 November
Important European Furniture	11 December