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Contact: Christina Freyberg 020 7389 2117 cfreyberg@christies.com

OUT OF THE ORDINARY



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Designed by Thomas Jeckyll, circa 1865
Estimate: £30,000-50,000



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Out of the Ordinary

The Discerning and Individual Taste of Christopher Gibbs and Harris Lindsay

Christies King Street

10 May 2006

London – A unique and fabulous treasure trove of furniture, sculpture, porcelain and works of art, from the 3rd century to the 20th century, many with a fascinating history and provenance, will be offered at Christie's sale *Out of the Ordinary: The Discerning and Individual Taste of Christopher Gibbs and Harris Lindsay* on Wednesday, 10 May 2006.

The antique dealers Christopher Gibbs and Harris Lindsay are known for their impeccable and discerning taste. Over the years, their shared interest in unusual and rare items has meant that they have often bought works of art jointly. The recent retirement of Christopher Gibbs and the reorganization by Jonathan Harris and Bruce Lindsay of their business has prompted this King Street sale.

Gibbs and Harris Lindsay's tastes bridge periods, schools and countries, a fact that is immediately apparent in the sheer diversity of furniture and works of art offered; it has therefore been grouped under different sections ranging from Antiquarianism and the Orient, to Ivory, Arts & Crafts, Modernism and Rococo. Behind each item, a fascinating provenance or history has all too often been uncovered. Among the works in the Baroque section is an Ajouré carved marble portrait profile relief of a gentleman, traditionally identified as the Marquis de Louvois, Louis XIV's Minister of War, circa 1690, from the workshop of Antoine Coysevoix (estimate: £25,000-40,000) and a Charles II white-painted side table, circa 1670, commissioned by the celebrated antiquarian Rachel, Countess of Bath for Tawstock, Devon (estimate: £50,000-80,000).

Superb examples of Empire furniture include a pair of Regency gilt-bronze bottle coolers, designed by J-J Boileau circa 1805, (estimate: £100,000-150,000); these coolers were made by George, Prince of Wales' Royal Goldsmith's Rundell, Bridge and Rundell and an identical pair were given by the Prince Regent to the great Naval champion himself, Horatio Nelson. The legendary country house sales of the last 50 years have been a good source for individual and eclectic items, including the remarkable pair of George III tulipwood, amaranth, mahogany, marquetry and parcel-gilt torcheres attributed to Mayhew and Ince, Chippendale's great rivals, circa 1770, which were made for Temple Newsam, Leeds (now a Museum) (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

A pair of early Victorian oak Gothic side chairs, circa 1848, attributed to A.W.N. Pugin (estimate: £5,000-8,000) feature in the Gothic section of the sale. The Pugin chairs, of a design first conceived for the Palace of Westminster (aka the Houses of Parliament) originally belonged to a set of six, the remainders of which have all been sold to American museums. The Edward Green oak Parlour Table, circa 1865, designed by Thomas Jeckyll (estimate: £50,000-80,000) and subsequently at Ken Hill, Norfolk, with its unique documentation and original designs, leads the Arts and Crafts section.

From the Orient is perhaps one of the earliest pieces of Japanese porcelain ever to have made it to these shores with the East India Company, an arita blue and white ewer and cover, Edo Period, late 17th century, which retains its original Charles II silver-gilt mounts that may have dressed it for William and Mary's visit to Sherborne Castle, Dorset in 1688 (estimate: £3,000-5,000). The Colonial section includes a remarkable set of four Indian carved ebony side chairs, circa 1660-80, Coromandel Coast, (estimate: £10,000-15,000); owned by the Orlebar family of Hinwick House, Bedfordshire, by family tradition these chairs are thought to have formed part of Queen Catherine of Braganza's dowry when she married Charles II.

The Grand Tour had a monumental impact on collecting tastes, and trophies from these tours include a full size and perhaps unique Roman Imperial porphyry column, re-cut and re-polished in the 16th or early 17th century from an antique column (estimate: £30,000-50,000). The inspiration of Classical civilization is perhaps no better summed up than in the George III bronze tripod perfume burner, designed by James Athenian Stuart circa 1765 and last sold at Christie's in 1801 (estimate: £25,000-40,000).

But it was never Gibbs and Harris Lindsay's style to always look backwards, and the sale includes a group of modern design from both Denmark and England. Iconic furniture by Heals & Sons including a set of eight macassar ebony and ivory dining chairs, circa 1930 (estimate: £4,000-6,000) In addition, a Danish rosewood coffee table, circa 1960 (estimate: £1,500-2,500) is among a selection of Danish furniture and glass.

It is an Aladdin's cave of the exceptional, academic, eccentric, unusual and whimsical. Out of the Ordinary indeed.

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors

Christopher Gibbs Esq.

The name of Christopher Gibbs has, for over a quarter of a century, been synonymous with a special type of informed taste. Right from 1958, when Gibbs opened his first London antiques business in Camden Passage, Islington, his shop stood out for the unusual and eclectic. Each of his later shops was an 'Aladdin's Cave' of antiques whether sited at 1 Elystan Street in Chelsea, 118 Old Bond Street, Vigo Street or his final location, 3 Dove Walk, Pimlico.

His intuitive eye, together with a vast degree of knowledge, has established him among London's foremost antique dealers, and in turn, his name has become legendary within interior decorating circles where he is credited with the 'spare country house' look. Acting as an advisor, Gibbs has also supplied some of the world's most beautiful homes, including those belonging to the late Sir John Paul Getty II, Mick Jagger, and Manolo Blahnik among others.

Christopher Gibbs has and continues to sit on a number of committees including the National Trust Arts panel, The American Friends of the National Gallery and the Edward James Foundation. Currently he is acting as one of the consultants on the resurrection of the Primary Galleries at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Harris Lindsay

Jonathan Harris's first set up shop at 54 Kensington Church Street, London where he quickly became known for his congenial mixture of the interesting and decorative. Like Christopher Gibbs, Harris always had a taste for the unusual and rare, especially oriental objects. From the outset, Harris has had a fruitful relationship with museums and other academic colleagues, and now more than thirty museums and public collections have been recipients of Harris Lindsay sales.

Bruce Lindsay joined Harris in 1984. This was to lead to the renaming of the firm as Harris Lindsay in 1999, following the move to new premises at 67 Jermyn Street. These premises house the firm's impressive library and archive, which is often used by colleagues from both the museum world as well as the trade.

Harris Lindsay regularly exhibit at fairs, and now show each year at Grosvenor House, Maastricht and the International Show in New York. Harris sits on the Diocesan Advisory Boards in Oxford and London, and is a regular advisor to private individuals, including the late Sir John Paul Getty II, the National Trust Arts panel and other government and heritage bodies.