

For Immediate Release
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THE BEATLES BREAK-UP AT CHRISTIE'S



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Pop Memorabilia **Thursday, 5 May 2005 at 1pm**

South Kensington – The letter documenting the break-up of The Beatles in 1969 leads Christie's all-star auction of **Pop Memorabilia** on 5 May 2005. Spanning generations of pop royalty from Jimi Hendrix through to Robbie Williams, the sale features 315 lots of music memorabilia relating to The Who, Brian Wilson, The Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton together with a host of other music legends.

A letter from three of the Beatles (John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr), dated 18 April 1969 to Lee Eastman, provides documentary evidence of one of the major catalysts behind the disbanding of arguably the greatest band in history. The letter formally notifies Lee Eastman that he was...."not authorized to act or hold yourself out as the attorney or legal representative of "The Beatles" or of any of the companies which The Beatles own or control...." (estimate: £40,000-60,000).

The realisation in 1969 that Apple was in financial chaos provoked Lennon and McCartney to look for new management of The Beatles' affairs. Whilst John, George and Ringo opted for Allen Klein who managed the Rolling Stones, Paul proposed instead his partner Linda's music lawyer father Lee Eastman and her brother John. Things degenerated and became

acrimonious resulting in a three against one division formalised by this letter. By this stage in 1969, The Beatles were all going in different musical directions and as Ringo recalled, "*It was like the wind-down to a divorce. A divorce doesn't just happen suddenly, there are months and years of misery until you finally say 'Oh, let's end it.'*" The Beatles' partnership was finally dissolved in court just under five years later on 9 January 1975.

Brian Wilson

A Fender Precision Bass used by Brian Wilson throughout his very successful 2004 "SMILE" world tour will also be offered (estimate: £4,000-6,000). The Beach Boys' uncompleted 1967 Smile album remained the elusive touchstone of Brian Wilson's career for decades and was the most long-awaited album in modern pop history. Finally completed nearly 40 years later in Spring 2004, the guitar was donated by Wilson to Adopt-A-Minefield, the charity supported by Heather Mills McCartney, and is being auctioned on behalf of the charity to raise funds to clear landmines and help landmine survivors.



The Who

The Who section of the sale is lead by a guitar played by Pete Townshend through the 1970s which he smashed up on stage and subsequently gave to an employee who repaired it (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Further Who memorabilia includes a multi-coloured tie-dye t-shirt worn by Who drummer Keith Moon during the photo-shoot for The Who's 1971 album *Meaty Beaty Big & Bouncy* (estimate: £3,000-5,000) and a pair of AJAX wooden drumsticks given by Keith Moon to a Swedish fan following a concert in Gothenburg, 3 May 1967 (estimate: £800-1,200)

Rolling Stones

Amongst a selection of memorabilia from music icons the Rolling Stones is a prosecution notice demanding that Brian Jones, Bill Wyman and Mick Jagger give statements regarding their lewd and annoying behaviour during a journey on public transport (estimate: £300-500). Also offered is a French promotional poster for The Rolling Stones which was signed by Brian Jones, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman (estimate: £2,000-3,000) at the Locomotive nightclub in Paris on 19 October 1964, during a press event prior to their concert at the Olympia theatre the following day.

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

Notes to Editors:**Viewing**

Tuesday 3 May, 9am-7.30pm

Wednesday 4 May, 9am-5pm

Thursday 5 May, 9am-12noon

Auction

Thursday, 5 May 2005 at 2pm

85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LD

Christie's has sold a wide range of memorabilia associated with Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Bob Marley, The Sex Pistols and Madonna, among many others. Christie's holds a number of world auction records including Eric Clapton's 'Blackie' guitar which was sold for \$959,500 in June 2004, becoming the most expensive guitar ever to have been sold at auction. Further record highlights are John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to The Beatles song "Nowhere Man" which sold for \$455, 500 (2003) and Elvis Presley's 1942 Martin D-18 acoustic guitar, that sold for £99,000 (1993).