

**For Immediate Release**

Monday, 10 April 2006

Contact: Rhiannon Bevan-John (London) +44 207 752 3120 [rbevan-john@christies.com](mailto:rbevan-john@christies.com)  
Kate Swan (New York) + 1 212 636 2680 [kswan@christies.com](mailto:kswan@christies.com)

**JEWELLERY, FABERGÉ, SILVER, FURNITURE & WORKS OF ART FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION, FORMERLY AT KENSINGTON PALACE, OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SNOWDON, AT CHRISTIE'S IN JUNE 2006**



© Cecil Beaton, CameraPress London  
Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret photographed by Cecil Beaton for her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, wearing an Art Deco pearl and diamond necklace and an Art Deco cultured pearl and diamond bracelet

**Tuesday 13 June & Wednesday 14 June 2006  
Christie's King Street**

**London** – Christie's announces that jewellery and works of art from the Collection of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, will be sold in London on 13 and 14 June 2006. This important and unparalleled historic sale will celebrate and pay tribute to The Princess Margaret's renowned beauty, style and taste. Comprising over 800 items, with estimates ranging from under £100 to over £500,000, the auction will feature a superb selection of jewellery and Fabergé as well as a broad range of furniture, silver, works of art and decorative objects.

“Christie’s are honoured to have been instructed to sell jewellery and works of art from the private collection of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. Christie’s have long enjoyed the trust of the Royal Family, having in the past offered properties from the Duke of York in 1827, the Duke of Sussex in 1843, Queen Victoria in 1901, the Duke of Cambridge in 1904 and most recently, the Duke of Gloucester in January 2006. We will stage an auction that pays tribute to her glamorous style and beauty,” said François Curiel, Deputy Chairman of Christie’s and International Head of Jewellery.

### Jewellery and Fabergé



On Tuesday 13 June 2006, jewellery and Fabergé from The Princess Margaret’s collection will be offered in two sessions at 3.00pm and 6.00pm. Princess Margaret’s collection of jewellery spans every stage of her life. With opportunities at every price level, highlights range from a gilt hedgehog brooch valued at £50 to the historic Poltimore Tiara. The collection includes pieces that were inherited, given or personally acquired by the Princess and reflects her celebrated style and timeless elegance. Many of the lots in the sale will be highly sought after not only for their provenance but also because they remain so eminently wearable today.

The collection is accentuated by important and historic pieces including an antique diamond rivièrè, *circa* 1900, accompanied by three handwritten notes naming the necklace after a previous owner as the ‘Lady Mount Stephen’ which was given to the Princess by her grandmother Her Majesty Queen Mary (estimate: £200,000-300,000). The collection includes the cherished five-row Art Deco pearl and diamond necklace which The Princess Margaret wore when photographed by Cecil Beaton for her 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthday portraits (estimate £15,000-20,000), and a marquise-cut diamond ring of 5.17 carats (estimate: £60,000-70,000).



Among the most treasured pieces is the ‘Poltimore Tiara’ which was originally created by Garrards in the 1870s for Florence, Lady Poltimore, the wife of the second Baron Poltimore (estimate £150,000-200,000). The Princess wore it on several occasions including her wedding and in its alternative form as a stunning diamond fringe necklace and scroll brooches prior to the wedding.

The Princess – like her grandmother – valued the work of Fabergé highly and there are several wonderful pieces in the sale. A superb translucent mauve enamelled silver clock applied with gold decorative elements was a gift of Queen Mary (estimate: £600,000-800,000). Another green hardstone Fabergé clock in the collection was originally purchased in 1914 for £65 by Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich, grandson of Tsar Nicholas I of Russia (estimate: £70,000-100,000).



Other Fabergé pieces include an enchanting miniature hardstone carving of a squirrel (estimate: £2,500-3,500) and a fine Louis XVI-style jewelled and enamelled gold cigarette case, again purchased at Fabergé's London shop on 21 November 1911 for £115 (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

More personal items of jewellery include a Victorian bee brooch accompanied by a note in the Princess' hand "Almost the first bit of jewellery given to Mum...given to me 10 Feb 1945" (estimate: £500-700) and a touching Art Deco sapphire and diamond bar brooch personally annotated by Queen Mary, "For darling Margaret on her confirmation day from her loving Grannie Mary R God bless you April 15<sup>th</sup> 1946" (estimate: £1,500-2,000).

The Princess Margaret's artistic patronage is particularly notable in her personal collection of jewels dating from the 1960s and 1970s. Demonstrating her acute eye and sense of style for unique and technically virtuous creations are examples from the workshops of British 'craftsmen-jewellers' of this period such as Andrew Grima and John Donald. Occasionally the design of a jewel would even involve The Princess Margaret's own personal input, such as the diamond-set brooch cast by Andrew Grima in yellow gold in 1967 directly from the piece of lichen sent to him by The Princess Margaret as a prototype (estimate: £2,000-3,000).



The Princess Margaret's love of horticulture is also reflected throughout the collection, adding emotional significance to the selection of rose and marguerite jewels. Whether an important diamond rose brooch by Cartier, dating from the late 1930s (estimate: £15,000-20,000) or a simple 9 carat gold and cultured pearl daisy pin presented to commemorate the anniversary of Saint Margaret (estimate: £100-150), the Princess, whose middle name was Rose, treasured and wore each jewel with equal affection and panache.

### **Silver, Furniture and Works of Art**

A further selection of silver, furniture and works of art from The Princess Margaret's private collection will be offered in a day sale at Christie's London on Wednesday 14 June 2006 at 10.00am. The sale comprises 600 lots of furniture, works of art, ceramics, glass, pictures, books, silver and other more personal effects. The auction offers collectors a chance to acquire interesting items with estimates starting from under £100 to over £30,000.

Leading this section of the sale is *Portrait of Princess Margaret* painted in 1957 by society and state portrait artist, Pietro Annigoni (1910-1988) (estimate on request). Annigoni rose to fame in 1954 following a commission from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers to paint the young Queen Elizabeth II. The painting, which is on display in the National Portrait Gallery in London, became his most recognised and famous work. Sir Alfred Munnings, former President of the Royal Academy declared Annigoni to be 'the greatest painter of the age'. The painting of Queen Elizabeth II was followed by a portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh and the portrait of The Princess Margaret which is offered in the sale.



The silver and object of vertu section of the sale features some 250 lots, led by a magnificent and extensive dressing table service by Paul Storr, London, 1837 (estimate: £25,000-35,000). A gift from H.M. Queen Mary (1867-1953), *circa* 1952, the service had belonged to a member of the Household staff who sold it privately to Queen Mary.



Amongst the fine selection of English and Continental silver is a pair of silver-gilt wine coasters made in 1803 for the Royal goldsmiths and jewellers Rundell, Bridge and Rundell by the London goldsmiths Digby Scott and Benjamin Smith (estimate: £10,000-15,000). Also by Benjamin Smith is a pair of silver-gilt sauceboats of 1835 (estimate: £4,000-6,000). The sale features a

broad range of domestic and personal items such as muffin dishes, photograph frames, inkstands and other useful objects, many pieces engraved with the initial and coronet of The Princess Margaret; estimates start from £50.

One of the many highlights of the objects of vertu section is the 9ct gold gem set cigarette case by Cartier presented to The Princess Margaret and engraved with an inscription '*from her very devoted Papa*' King George VI (1895-1952) for Christmas 1949 (estimate: £3,000-5,000). This is just one of many lots by Cartier included in this section, another is a delightful cased set of five gold-mounted ebony dice, contained in a fitted black crocodile case applied with The Princess Margaret's initial (estimate: £400-600). Other objects of vertu come from around the world and include two German lacquer boxes by the celebrated Stockmann factory, a silver-gilt and enamel travelling icon and a wide range of French and continental snuff boxes, in both enamel and tortoiseshell; estimates range from £100 to £5,000.

Many gifts from Queen Mary also feature prominently in her granddaughter's collection. Included amongst the 200 lots of furniture and works of art is a French giltwood firescreen inset

with a charming floral needlework banner which is stamped with Queen Mary's initial 'M', while also being marked with her Private Property inventory label (estimate: £800-1,200).

Additional works of art with fascinating historical importance include Queen Alexandra's fan, presented to her by her sister Marie Empress of Russia and given to The Princess Margaret by her grandmother Queen Mary in 1932. It is signed by Ch-Vuillemot and M.Dumas and dates from the late 19th century (estimate: £400-600). While a pair of Regency 18 inch terrestrial and celestial library globes by J & W Cary are one of the leading pieces of Regency furniture from the collection (estimate: £25,000-40,000).



Further important items of furniture include a pair of George II giltwood mirrors (estimate: £30,000-50,000), while from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, two pieces of furniture originally supplied to George IV include: a Regency rosewood firescreen (estimate: £800-1,200) and a Regency satinwood cheval mirror (estimate: £1,500-2,500) both stamped with the inventory mark of George IV and Brighton Pavilion and later recorded when removed to Buckingham Palace in 1866.

Amongst the 100 lots ceramics and glass included in the sale is The Princess Margaret's French porcelain casket painted with Princess Margaret's initial 'M' in the form of a painted garland and inscribed "Specialement pour S.A.R. La Princesse Margaret d'Angleterre" (estimate: £500-800) and a wide range of commemorative wares, dinner and tea services with estimates ranging from £100 to £5,000 which will appeal to collectors of Royal memorabilia.

# # #

**General Public Enquiries:** +44 (0) 20 7389 2486

**General Email Enquiries:** [royalauction@christies.com](mailto:royalauction@christies.com)

### **Public UK Regional Exhibitions**

#### Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

Tuesday 2 May 10.00am-5.00pm: last entrance: 4.30pm (no entrance fee)

Wednesday 3 May 10.00am-5.00pm: last entrance: 4.30pm (no entrance fee)

#### Harewood House, Yorkshire

Friday 5 May 11.00am-4.30pm: last entrance: 4pm (house entrance fee: £11.30)

Saturday 6 May 11.00am-6.00pm: last entrance: 5.30pm (house entrance fee: £13.15)

#### Wilton House, near Salisbury, Wiltshire

Monday 8 May 10.30am-5.30pm: last entrance: 4.30pm (house entrance fee: £9.75)

Tuesday 9 May 10.30am-5.30pm: last entrance: 4.30pm (house entrance fee: £9.75)

### **Public International Exhibitions**

13–16 May 2006      Christie's Geneva, Hotel de Bergues  
27-31 May 2006      Christie's Hong Kong: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre  
3-7 June 2006        Christie's New York

### **Public London Exhibition**

Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT

Friday 9 June: 2.00pm– 8.00pm  
Saturday 10 June: 9.00am–5.00pm  
Sunday 11 June: 9.00am–5.00pm  
Monday 12 June: 9.00am–5.00pm  
Tuesday 13 June 9.00am–1.00pm

### **Auction: Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT**

- Jewellery and Fabergé  
Tuesday 13 June 2006 at 3.00pm and 6.00pm
- Furniture, Silver and Works of Art  
Wednesday 14 June 2006 at 10.00am

### **Catalogue**

The special tribute catalogue will be available from early May. Catalogues can be ordered via Tel. 44 (0)20 7389 2820; Fax 44 (0)20 7389 2869 or at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

### **Notes to Editors:**

Although it is the first time in history that the private jewellery Collection of the sister of a reigning monarch is offered for sale, Christie's wish to specify that the jewellery offered is neither part of the Crown Jewels nor part of the Royal Collection.

### **The H.R.H. The Princess Margaret (1930-2002)**



H.R.H. The Princess Margaret was the younger daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and sister to H.R.H. The Queen. She was born on 21 August 1930. During her rich and varied life, The Princess played an active role in the Royal Family's public work, supporting The Queen. Her particular interests were in the broad field of welfare work, and in the arts. She was patron or president of over 80 organisations, ranging from children's charities to ballet companies.

Educated at home with her sister, The Queen, The Princess learned to ride, enjoyed swimming and became a keen gardener. She had a strong interest in music from an early age, taking piano lessons by the age of four and later becoming an accomplished pianist.

In 1937 she joined the Brownies, and when she was old enough enlisted in the Girl Guides. She always maintained close links with Guiding, and, until her death, served as President and Chairman of the Council of the Girl Guides Association. In childhood during the Second World War she also became a Sea Ranger and, in 1949, was appointed their Commodore.

When she was five years old The Princess attended the Jubilee of her grandparents, King George V and Queen Mary. Less than two years later came her second great State occasion, her parents' Coronation in Westminster Abbey. Princess Margaret began to carry out public engagements at a very young age; one early appointment was as Patron of the Scottish Children's League (becoming President in 1966). In 1947 she accompanied the King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth on their South African tour.

In February 1960 The Queen announced her consent to the engagement of The Princess Margaret to Mr Antony Armstrong-Jones, and they were married in Westminster Abbey on 6 May. The honeymoon was spent in the West Indies. Following their marriage they made their home in Kensington Palace. In October 1961 Mr Armstrong-Jones was created Earl of Snowdon and Viscount Linley.



They had two children and The Princess Margaret was a devoted mother. Their son, Lord Linley, was born on 3 November 1961 and christened David Albert Charles; their daughter, Lady Sarah Frances Elizabeth, was born on 1 May 1964. The marriage of The Princess to Lord Snowdon was dissolved in May 1978.

Over the years, their son David Linley has achieved international renown for his company, LINLEY, which designs and manufactures furniture, upholstery and accessories of the highest

quality. He shares his mother's passion for the arts and has also written numerous books and lectured around the world. Sarah Chatto also inherited her parent's artistic abilities and is a professional artist, whose works receive both critical and commercial acclaim.



The Princess Margaret took a full share in the Royal Family's many public activities and showed particular interest in the broad field of welfare work. Many of the 80-plus organisations of which she was Patron or President are concerned with activities for young people, children's well-being and caring for sick people. She was President of the National Society and of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Formerly Commandant-in-Chief of the Ambulance and Nursing Cadets of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, she later became Grand President of the St John Ambulance Brigade and Colonel-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

The Princess Margaret made many official overseas visits, representing The Queen on numerous important occasions. She also opened British fairs and trade promotions, besides making other less formal visits. The Princess's first Commonwealth visit alone was to the Caribbean in 1955.

In the arts, two of The Princess Margaret's great enthusiasms were music and ballet. In 1957, the same year that she was made an Honorary Doctor of Music of London University, she became the first President of the Royal Ballet, The Queen serving as Patron; she was also President of the Sadler's Wells Foundation.

**Picture credits**

© Cecil Beaton, CameraPress London

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret photographed by Cecil Beaton for her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and wearing the five-row pearl and diamond necklace

© Getty Images

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret on her wedding day wearing the Poltimore Tiara

© Getty Images

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret wearing the antique diamond rivièrè given to her by Her Majesty Queen Mary