

For Immediate Release

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DAZZLING DIAMONDS AND TWO ROYAL COLLECTIONS
Christie's Important Jewellery Sale Sparkles in June

Important Jewellery
13 June 2007 at 10.30 am



King Street, London – Two royal collections from Italy and Yugoslavia lead Christie's London **Important Jewellery** sale on 13 June 2007. Featuring over 200 jewels of exceptional provenance and elegance dating from the early 16th century through to the 20th century, the sale also includes an impressive 19.08 carat diamond ring by Harry Winston (estimate: £600,000-700,000) (*illustrated left*) and a very rare 7.81 carat blue diamond ring, *circa* 1920 (estimate: £300,000-400,000). With estimates ranging from £200 to £700,000, the sale is expected to realise in

excess of £5million.

Jewels from the Collection of HRH Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia, inherited from her mother HM Queen Maria José of Italy

Leading the collection of 41 pieces from the *Collection of HRH Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia* is an exquisite antique diamond tiara, *circa* 1890 by Fabergé (estimate: £400,000-600,000) (*illustrated right*). This very rare tiara, a delightfully light and refined piece, is an excellent example of Fabergé's superlative craftsmanship. Her Royal Highness Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia is the daughter of His Majesty King Umberto II and Her Majesty Queen Maria José of Italy, who inherited this tiara from her brother Prince Karl Theodor, the Count of Flanders, upon his death. In the Count's will it was referred to as 'The Empress Josephine Tiara'.



An antique turquoise and diamond suite comprising a necklace, two bracelets, a brooch and a pair of ear pendants, *circa* 1830 (estimate: £30,000-40,000), was a wedding gift from the King and Queen of Belgium to their daughter when she married the Crown Prince of Italy, who later became King Umberto II. Queen Maria José wore this suite two days before her wedding for the reception in the Royal Palace, on 6 January 1930. The necklace was mounted as a bandeau in the style of the period and the Milanese fashion house *Ventura*

created a Royal train, embroidered in silver thread with flowers entwined with the Savoy knot, to match the suite.

Further highlights include a sparkling antique diamond set bow brooch, *circa* 1860 (estimate: £6,000-8,000) (*illustrated left*).



This was one of several wedding gifts to Queen Maria José from King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy and Queen Elena. Queen Maria José wore this brooch on her sash to the wedding of King Constantine of Greece and Princess Anna Maria of Denmark (18 September 1964) in which she was photographed with Princess Maria Gabriella and King Umberto II. An antique natural pearl, diamond and yellow

gold tiara, converted into a bandeau (estimate: £10,000-15,000) will also be offered. Originally in the collection of Stéphanie de Beauharnais (the niece of Empress Josephine, Napoleon's first wife) and inherited from the Countess of Flanders, this was the first tiara which Queen Maria José wore.

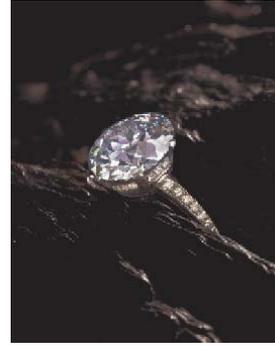
Charming, smaller mementos from when Queen Maria José was Princess of Belgium (1906-1930) will also be offered, including glamorous ear pendants, bracelets and chokers which translate well to the modern day; estimates range from just £200 to £2,000.

Rare **books on jewellery**, originally from the collection of King Umberto II of Italy reflect the discerning eye of this cultured man and include books documenting *The Russian Crown Jewels*, 1927 (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and *The French Crown Jewels*, 1887 (estimate: £3,000-5,000). Also offered are two extremely rare, original books dating from 1791 which provide an inventory of the French Crown Jewels in the *Garde-Meubles* during the French Revolution which was made prior to the robbery when many important stones disappeared (estimate: £1,000-1,500).

A further selection of **Works of Art From The Collection of HRH Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia** will also be offered at Christie's London on 27 June 2007. Comprising over 350 lots, with estimates ranging from under £200 to over £50,000, the auction will feature a superb selection of royal effects ranging from Old Master family portraits, court silver, Fabergé silver, monogrammed linen, dinner services and glassware, photographs and royal furniture from Castello Reale di Racconigi near Turin, the private residence of King Umberto II and his family. Among the highlights is a mid 18th century North Italian engraved ivory, mother of pearl and tortoise shell inlaid casket by Pietro Piffetti (estimate: £50,000-80,000); a table lighter in the form of a monkey by Fabergé (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and a mid-19th century French miniature armour for man and horse by E. Granger, Paris (estimate: £7,000-10,000).

DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

Dazzling diamonds in Christie's sale are led by an impressive 19.08 carat D, VVS2 potentially flawless diamond ring, by Harry Winston (estimate: £600,000-700,000). A very rare fancy greyish-blue 7.81 carat diamond ring, *circa* 1920 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) is one of the finest examples of its type (*illustrated right*). Blue diamonds are considered to be one of the most elusive and admired of coloured diamonds and were initially found in the Kollur mines in the Golconda region of Hyderabad, India during the 17th century.



Other highlights include a rare antique diamond rosette brooch thought to date from the early 16th century (estimate: £20,000-30,000). By family tradition this piece was given by Charles II to the Lord Dunsany of the time and is being offered by The Dunsany Will Trust.

GORGEOUS GEORGIAN JEWELS & ART DECO VIVACITY



A group of 12 Georgian jewels bring a selection of sought after old diamonds and attractive emeralds to the sale, headlined by a stunning George III diamond flower brooch, *circa* 1770 (estimate: £30,000-40,000). Other highlights include a delicate, late Georgian emerald and diamond necklace (estimate: £18,000-22,000).

The unique fluidity and vivacious composition of Art Deco pieces result in timeless classics which are in great demand. Leading this section is an Art Deco diamond necklace by Cartier, *circa* 1925 (estimate: £40,000-50,000) from the collection of the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire DCVO.

Jewels from the Collection of HRH Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia (separate press release available)

Comprising 25 pieces, including historic Russian jewellery with examples of Fabergé and elegant diamonds, pearls and emeralds by Cartier, estimates range from £250 to £35,000. Many of the jewels originally formed the collection of Princess Elizabeth's great-grandmother, Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1854 -1920), whose collection was one of the largest of the Imperial family. Some of the pieces were reset in the 1930s using Romanov diamonds and pearls. The collection is expected to realise in excess of £200,000. Highlights include a diamond brooch by Cartier (estimate: £20,000-25,000), which HRH Princess Elizabeth recently wore to the wedding of HRH Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall in 2005 and an historic royal portrait brooch of Prince Nicholas of Greece and Grand Duchess Elena Vladimirovna of Russia (*illustrated above right*), to commemorate their marriage in 1902 (estimate: £8,000-£12,000).



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A selection of images is available on request*

Notes to Editors:

Auction: Important Jewellery, Christie's King Street on Wednesday 13 June 2007: 10.30am

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

- Friday 8 June: 9.00am-4.30pm
- Sunday 10 June: 1.00-5.00pm
- Monday 11 June: 9.00am-4.30pm
- Tuesday 12 June: 9.00am-8.00pm

CHRISTIE'S – JEWELLERY MARKET LEADERS SINCE 1994

Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for over 13 years, with sales totalling a record \$355 million in 2006, a 27% increase from 2005 and the highest sales total ever realised. Christie's jewellery auctions take place in Amsterdam, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Milan, New York, Paris and St Moritz, and 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 100 carat diamond. Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets, including the inaugural jewellery sale in the Middle East in January 2007 in Dubai.