

*For Immediate Release
13 April 2004*

Contact: Rik Pike 020.7752.3120 rpik@christies.com

TOYS, DOLLS AND TEDS STAR AT CHRISTIE'S

- ***THREE SALES IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE TO OFFER THE FINEST AND RAREST TOYS – FOR COLLECTORS OF ALL AGES***



A selection of toys to be offered for sale at Christie's South Kensington during May and June

FINE TOYS

Thursday 20 May 2004 at 10.30 am and 2pm

South Kensington, London – The auction of Fine Toys on Thursday 20 May will offer a wide variety of lots including toy soldiers, fine Corgi toys, toy trains and tinplate toys. The sale features over 700 lots and is expected to realize in excess of £200,000, with estimates ranging from £200 to £6,000.

The auction will comprise the fascinating 19th century toy soldier collection of the late Bill Carman - an important toy soldier manufacturer. The property will offer numerous Courtenay figures, with estimates starting at £200. Other highlights in the sale include very rare Corgi toy cars in their original packets, with many dating from 1970 and promoting the James Bond film On Her Majesty's Secret Service (estimate: £1,000-1,500).

Collectors will also appreciate an extremely rare 1904 furniture wagon from Märklin (estimate: £2,000-3,000), an original puppet head of Carter - Skyship One's flight attendant from Thunderbirds (estimate: £3,000-5,000), a Bing racing car from 1906 (estimate: £6,000-8,000) and extremely rare tinsplate cars such as the Faivre two-seat open tourer from 1902 (estimate: £3,500-5,000).

DOLLS AND MECHANICAL MUSIC

Tuesday 25 May at 10.30 am and 2pm

The Dolls and Mechanical Music auction on Tuesday 25 May comprises 300 lots of the finest quality dolls, doll's houses, early games, rocking horses and printed ephemera. Estimates will suit all pockets, ranging from £200 to £20,000.

Sophy, a fine Jumeau bébé with elaborate original clothes, reputedly belonging to one of the Russian Grand Duchesses and brought to England by a British governess, is expected to fetch £4,000-6,000.

The sale also features an important private collection of printed ephemera including a vast selection of related items such as scrap albums and a three-dimensional chromolithic carousel (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

Collectors will also be delighted to discover among the numerous lots an exquisite Queen Anne rolled paper house, dating from the early 18th century (estimate: £10,000-15,000), a fine 18th century English wooden doll, circa 1770 in its original costume (£5,000-£8,000), and a rare Kestner mould number 221 goggle-eyed girl doll with a smiling mouth (estimate: £5,000-8,000).

A highlight from the Mechanical Music section is 'L'équilibriste', from Vichy, a wonderful acrobat automaton balancing on a ladder (estimate: £15,000-20,000).

TEDDY BEARS

Friday 4 June at 2pm

The sale, taking place on Friday 4 June, will offer a wide variety of teddy bears and soft toys, with estimates ranging from £100 to £15,000.

The auction will feature one of the earliest teddy bears ever made by Steiff, which is sure to be of interest to teddy bears lovers around the world. The 'Rob Bear' dates from 1904 and is estimated at £10,000-15,000. Another Steiff highlight is a rare electric automated shop window display with moving bears, estimated at £10,000-15,000. This is one of only 21 ever made. A Puss in Boots by Steiff is also notable, with its original sword and pointy leather boots dating from circa 1912 (estimate: £3,000-5,000).

Elsewhere in the sale is a very rare musical teddy bear by Jopi, in frosted pink mohair. Recently discovered on the BBC Antiques Roadshow, this touching teddy bear is estimated at £2,000-3,000.

The most unusual lot in this sale is without doubt Spit the Dog – the original puppet from the well-known TV show, Tiswas, that Bob Carolgees created in the mid-1970s (estimate: £1,000-1,500). Spit the Dog was a star of this famous children's programme and also appeared in Surprise-Surprise with Cilla Black.

###

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