

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **London Splendor in New York: PARTRIDGE**

**PARTRIDGE**  
**Christie's New York**  
**May 17, 2006**

**NEW YORK/LONDON** – Christie's is honored to announce *Partridge*, a sale of select property from the renowned Partridge gallery in London, taking place in New York on May 17. A leader in the field of 18<sup>th</sup> century English and French furniture, Partridge has helped to create some of the finest private collections in the world, and counts the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the British Museum and the J. Paul Getty Museum among its clients. The sale consists of an exciting selection of 200 lots of English and European furniture, paintings and works of art, and is expected to realize in excess of \$10 million.

“Christie's is honored to be holding this sale for Partridge, one of the most celebrated and respected names in the art world. The rich scope of the sale, which ranges from superb English and French furniture to Old Master paintings, silver, porcelain and carpets, reflects the renowned depth of Partridge's business. It is an exciting time for Partridge, and Christie's is particularly glad that the sale will help to secure Partridge's future as one of the preeminent galleries in the world,” says William Strafford, Senior Vice President and Specialist Head of the European Furniture Department at Christie's.

“We are pleased to offer for sale with Christies a selection of the celebrated ‘Partridge’ taste in New York, which will present an opportunity to our many existing collectors worldwide and also I hope introduce the Partridge tradition to a new group,” say Mark Law, Executive Chairman, Partridge.

The sale covers an impressive range of collecting categories, offering buyers a truly comprehensive cross-section of the fine and decorative arts, all in wonderful condition. The sale is let by a particularly strong selection of French furniture, prominent among which is an impressive Louis XVI ormolu-mounted tulipwood and parquetry cylinder bureau with the stamp of Ferdinand Bury, circa 1780 (*image right*, estimate: \$250,000-400,000). Purchased by Baron Alphonse de Rothschild in 1870, this bureau à cylindre originally formed part of the famed collection of Prince Anatole Demidoff (1812-1870). Other highlights include a near pair of Louis XV giltwood console tables richly carved with dragons in the manner of Nicolas Pineau, circa 1740 (estimate: \$400,000-600,000), one of which was formerly in the collection of celebrated couturier and art collector Hubert de Givenchy. The sumptuousness of the precious materials used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is reflected by a Louis XV ormolu-mounted Japanese black and gold lacquer bureau en pente, attributed to Jacques Dubois and illustrating the best of his oeuvre (estimate: \$120,000-180,000). Among the recorded examples of lacquer bureaux by Dubois, those in Japanese lacquer - the most prized and expensive form of lacquer used in this way - are incredibly rare. Also of note is a spectacular Italian micro-mosaic and marble table signed by Michelangelo Barberi (estimate: \$300,000-500,000).

Among the English furniture highlights is a magnificent pair of George II giltwood console tables, possibly designed by William Kent, circa 1735 (estimate: \$600,000-1,000,000), one of which was sold by Christie's in the famous Woburn Place sale in 1978. Other highlights include a set of four George III giltwood side chairs attributed to Thomas Chippendale, the most famous English cabinetmaker of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).

The sale features an excellent cross-section of collecting categories, offering an important selection of works of art including clocks, carpets, porcelain, silver and chandeliers and lighting. Of particular note among the clocks offered is a Louis XV corne vert and green-painted ormolu and patinated bronze musical mantel clock, with movements supported by a superb bronze figure of a rhinoceros and with mounts signed by Jean-Joseph de Saint-Germain, circa 1745 (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). A French Restoration savonnerie carpet, circa 1820 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) leads the selection of fine carpets.

Leading the particularly strong selection of silver in this sale is a highly important Queen Anne silver-gilt ewer and basin bearing the arms of King George I and with the mark of Lewis Mettayer, London, 1710 (*image left*, estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000). An additional highlight in this section is a set of four George IV silver wine coolers with the mark of Robert Garrard, London, 1828 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). The set features the arms of Lister quartering Cunliffe and was likely commissioned for Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Ribblesdale (1790-1842). One of the most striking objets d'art is a pair of Restoration ormolu, patinated bronze and Chinese blue-glazed porcelain nine-light candelabra of extraordinary scale, circa 1820-1840 (estimate:

\$200,000-400,000). Among the porcelain highlights is an extensive Meissen porcelain dinner service comprising 125 pieces formerly owned by heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke, circa 1770 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000).

Paintings also feature prominently in the sale. Leading the selection is a pair of works by Joseph Vernet (1714-1789), one of the most successful landscape painters of eighteenth century France. *Morning and Evening* (*image right*) are two from a series of four works by Vernet, signed and dated 1778, commissioned by Denis-Pierre-Jean Papillon de la Ferté (1712-1794) and exhibited by Vernet at the Paris Salon of 1779 (estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000). Also of note among the paintings offered is *La Halte des Chasseurs* by Nicolas Lancret (Paris, 1690-1743). Depicting the pleasures of the hunt, it is among the most important of a small but extremely interesting group of hunting scenes executed by Lancret (*image right*, estimate: \$400,000-600,000).

**Auction**

PARTRIDGE  
May 17, 2006  
Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

**Preview**  
May 13-16, 2006  
Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

**Preview Tour**

London February 2-9, 2006	Christie's London, King Street
Palm Beach February 9 & 10, 2006	The Brazilian Court 301 Australian Avenue
Dubai March 19-22, 2006	Jumeirah Dubai

More information about Christie's sale of *PARTRIDGE* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

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# PARTRIDGE

## THE PARTRIDGE LEGACY

Since first opening its doors at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Partridge has been firmly established among the world's foremost dealers of fine and decorative arts. The Partridge legacy begins with Frank Partridge in 1902, in a building in St. James's, across from the Christie's location on King Street in London. It was here that the Partridge name first made its mark, quickly becoming synonymous with offering the best 18<sup>th</sup>-century English and French furniture and decorative arts to an international clientele. Among some of the most passionate Partridge clients were Americans eager to bring the Partridge grace and elegance to their homes. It is this American love affair with the Partridge style that has set the firm apart, a relationship that has spanned generations and still continues today.

Partridge relocated to New Bond during World War I and still occupies the superb building that contains an impressive enfilade of galleries over three floors. Custom-designed as a gallery, the model for this building was famous art collector Henry Clay Frick's residence in New York City - a spectacular mansion created around Frick's impressive art collection and known for its great spaces and natural light.

In the mid-1950's Frank Partridge's grandson, John Partridge, took the helm of Partridge. Building upon the firm's reputation as the leading purveyors of the highest quality 18<sup>th</sup> century English and French furniture, John Partridge expanded the firm's expertise to include Old Master paintings, English and Continental silver, European and Oriental porcelain, and other fine decorative arts.

Over the years, Partridge has helped to create some of the finest private collections in the world, many of them situated in the United States. Well-known American collectors who built their collections with advice and guidance from Partridge include Andrew Mellon and Randolph Hearst. Partridge has not only catered to private collectors, however, but counts among its clients such renowned institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the British Museum, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Perhaps the most well-known institutional collection with pieces supplied by Partridge is that of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

# PARTRIDGE

## **A NEW ERA**

The year 2006 marks the beginning of a new era for Partridge. In January the company announced a new corporate structure and executive team lead by Mark Law as Executive Chairman and John Partridge, grandson of founder Frank Partridge, as company President.

Under this new leadership, Partridge will continue to guide their established collectors' base while also focusing on broadening their audience through the inclusion of new collecting categories such as porcelain and jewelry.

Mark Law says, "I have always admired the Partridge name and the Partridge reputation for offering collectors from around the world the best of the best. Partridge has a strong backbone consisting of the very finest in Continental and English furniture and I look to continue this tradition. I also look forward to introducing Partridge to a new generation of collectors by expanding our expertise into such categories as porcelain and jewelry, all the while remaining true to our strengths and traditions."

John Partridge says, "This is an exciting time for the Partridge name. We look forward to introducing the Partridge style to a whole new generation of collectors, inspiring them and accompanying them on the exciting journey of art collecting."