

For Immediate Release

5 April 2004

Contact: Rhiannon Bevan-John 44 207 389 2964

rbevan-john@christies.com

A VISUAL FEAST: THE HALL COLLECTION **Beautiful Ceramics for All Budgets to be Auctioned by Christie's**



The Hall Collection: Chinese Monochrome Porcelains from the Collection of the Late Professor E. T. Hall, C.B.E.

Christie's King Street

7 June 2004

London – For interior decorators to connoisseurs alike, a visual feast of Chinese monochrome porcelains from the Collection of the Late Professor E. T. Hall, C.B.E. will be offered at Christie's King Street on 7 June 2004. The collection features over 300 beautiful examples spanning the colour spectrum from copper red to pale apple greens and sapphire blues. With estimates ranging from just £300 to over £30,000, this superb sale will offer everyone the opportunity to purchase affordable and stunning ceramics; ideal for those looking for something beautiful for their home and their collection.

Lovingly assembled by one of modern science's most renowned figures, the late Professor E.T. Hall C.B.E, this is one of the finest and largest private groups of monochrome Chinese porcelains in the world. With an unerring eye for colour and quality, Professor E.T. Hall built a dazzling collection with examples from the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) through to the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). Estimated in

the region of £2 million, the sale follows the highly successful July 2003 auction of Important Clocks and Scientific Instruments from the Collection of Professor Hall.

Desmond Healey, Head of the Chinese Department, Christie's London says:

"We are extremely honoured that Christie's has been entrusted to introduce the next generation of designers, collectors and scholars to such an exceptional collection of treasures. The exquisite beauty and broad price range of this collection will appeal to a wide audience. I will always remember my visit to Professor Hall's Oxford house where the display of these wonderful ceramics was exceptional and a visual triumph. As you entered the house, down a long corridor, the wall was lined with floor to ceiling glass vitrines filled with beautifully coloured ceramics."

Whether dramatic red or transparent yellow, large or small, a plate or a vase, all tastes and budgets are catered for with over 100 lots offered with estimates of £1,000 or less. Making an ideal table centrepiece is a beautiful imperial yellow-glazed square bowl (estimate: £1,000-1,500). Other affordable items include a crackled blue-glazed vase (estimate: £2,000-3,000) and two aubergine-glazed cylindrical bruhpots (estimate: £1,800-2,200). Beautiful highlights include a raspberry red baluster vase (estimate: £20,000-30,000); a rare imperial yellow-glazed bell-shaped cup (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and a mint-green-glazed seal-paste box and cover (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

Professor Hall began collecting Chinese porcelains as a young man. His interest in chemistry extended to a fascination with the Chinese potters' ability to achieve the whole spectrum of glaze colours by mineral colorants and precise control of firing. Apart from his wonderful collections of Chinese monochromes, clocks and scientific instruments, Professor Hall left the art world a more vital legacy. In 1953 he used X-ray fluorescence to show that the bones of Piltdown Man had been stained to make them appear fossilised. The thermoluminescence test which he pioneered has today become a standard procedure for authenticating pottery antiquities all over the world. His success was instrumental in Oxford University's decision in 1955 to let him establish the archaeology and the history of art research laboratory, where he created an internationally renowned team. In 1988, he debunked the myth that the Turin Shroud had wrapped the body of Christ after the Crucifixion, dating the material to the medieval era, between 1260 and 1390, a result greeted with consternation in some circles. The same year, Professor Hall was made a CBE.

Born in London, the son of Lt-Col Walter D'Arcy Hall, later MP for Brecon and Radnor, Professor Hall grew up at Shipton Court, a manor house in Oxfordshire. He went to Eton, and in 1943 joined the RNVR as an ordinary seaman, serving in landing craft transporting commandos to France. After the war, he won a place at New College, Oxford. He studied chemistry before switching to physics and the research that earned him a DPhil in 1953.

#

Images available on request
View these sales online at www.christies.com

Christie's European Sales of Asian Art in 2004:

- Asian Works of Art - 15 April, South Kensington
- Chinese Export Ceramics from a European Private Collection – 11 May, King Street
- Asian Decorative Arts – 13 May, South Kensington
- Asian Ceramics and Works of Art – 18 May, Amsterdam
- ***The E. T. Hall Collection of Chinese Monochrome Porcelains – 7 June, King Street***
- ***Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art -- 8 June, King Street***
- Japanese Art – 8 June, King Street
- Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art - 11 June, South Kensington
- Arts of Asia – 15 June, Paris
- Asian Decorative Arts – 8 July, South Kensington
- At Home: Asian Decorative Arts – 9 September, South Kensington
- Japanese Ceramics and Works of Art – 30 September, South Kensington
- Indian and Islamic Works of Art – 15 October, South Kensington
- Chinese and Japanese Ceramics and Works of Art – 19 October, Amsterdam
- Asian Paintings and Prints – 28 October, South Kensington
- Chinese Works of Art – 9 November, King Street
- Japanese Works of Art – 10 November, King Street
- Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art – 12 November, South Kensington
- Arts of Asia – 23 November, South Kensington
- Asian Decorative Arts – 9 December, South Kensington