

For Immediate Release

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**THE COLLECTION OF AN ITALIAN PRINCESS SOARS AT CHRISTIE'S
Her Royal Highness Princess Maria Beatrice of Savoia's Private Collection
Achieves £2.4 Million (€3.5 Million) at Christie's in London**

**The Collection of S.A.R. La Principessa Reale Maria Beatrice de Savoia
Christie's London
22 April 2005**

London - The extraordinary personal collection of Her Royal Highness Princess Maria Beatrice of Savoia, a member of the former Italian Royal family, has sold for £2,372,012 at Christie's in London (22/04/05). The private collection more than quadrupled pre-sale expectations and was 100% sold as buyers competed to acquire pieces of history with impeccable provenance.

Comprising an array of personal royal effects ranging from family portraits and pictures, bronze busts, photograph albums, ceremonial sceptres, court silver, decorative glass, monogrammed linen and dinner services, and an array of fascinating and unusual personal effects, the collection offered a rare insight into the history of the Italian royal family.

"We saw, as expected, a very strong Italian presence at the auction as the market overwhelmingly welcomed this very special Italian collection," said Andrew Waters, Director, Christie's House Sales and Collections Department. *"Italian clients were joined by a broad group of international collectors in the packed King Street saleroom and the auction lasted well into the night with each and every lot being competed for fiercely. The success of Christie's sale today again shows the continued fascination and appetite for Collections sales as people flock to acquire a piece of history to enjoy today. Christie's continues to lead the field in presenting such collections and we look forward to a full schedule of single-owner sales throughout the rest of the season".*

The top-selling work of art was an Italian equestrian bronze group of Carlo Emanuele I that sold for £764,000 (€1,116,204). Further high prices were achieved by J.L. Heirlem's *King Carlo Emmanuele IV of Sardinia as a child greeted by his mother* which realized £54,000 (€103,086) and Filippo Vittori's *Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Italy sleeping in a stable* which also sold for £54,000 (€103,086).

Other notable lots from the Princess' remarkable and very personal collection included the King of Italy's cigarette case, which achieved £1,560 (€2,279) against a pre-sale estimate of £300-500, and the striking childhood portraits of siblings Maria Margherita di Savoia, Duchess of Mantua and Tommaso Francesco, Prince of Carignano, by a follower of Jan Kraek, called Giovanni Caracca which reached £48,000 (€91,632) and £45,600 (€66,621) respectively. Further highlights ranged from a ceremonial train used at the Royal Court made in exquisite pink panné velvet which sold for £4,560 (€6,662) to the Queen of Italy, Maria-Jose's crocodile dressing case with tortoiseshell fittings (estimate: £400-600) that sold for £541 (€790).

The broad range of price levels from £200 upwards ensured that Christie's successful sale was enjoyed by collectors and history-lovers alike, offering a fascinating glimpse into the bygone world of the Italian Royal family.

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Christie's Collections Sales

Since its foundation in 1766, Christie's has traditionally held the most significant and successful Private Collection and House sales, from the jewels of Madame du Barry in 1793 through forty days of the Stowe sale in 1848, to more recent triumphs for Cecil Beaton, Marilyn Monroe, Rudolph Nureyev, the Viennese Rothschilds, Hubert de Givenchy, Christopher Gibbs and Axel Vervoordt.

In 2004 the London based House Sales and Collections Department staged nine sales, collectively totalling £17.8 million, and dominated the field with 80% market share against our nearest competitor. Highlights included Christie's sale of *Property from Two Ducal Collections*, on 20 and 21 September, staged in the Sculpture Gallery at one of Britain's best-loved houses, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire.

Forthcoming Collection and House Sales at Christie's London

The Royal & Sun Alliance Collection - 19 May

22 Arlington Street, A William Kent House - 11 May

Property from Moundsmere Manor - 8 June

Two Late Regency Collectors: Philip John Miles and George Byng - 9 June

The Champalimaud Collection - 6 & 7 July

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