

For Immediate Release

30 April 2003

Contact: Rik Pike, London

020.7752.3120

rpik@christies.com

SIMMERING SUMMER SPORTS SALES AT SOUTH KENSINGTON

Cricket, Tennis & Traditional Sports

Tuesday 24 June 2003 at 10.30am

Golf Memorabilia

Tuesday 8 July 2003 at 11am



Sir Donald Bradman's 1946-7 Ashes series 'Baggy Green' (estimate: £10,000-20,000) and his bat used during the 1930 Ashes Series (estimate: £25,000-50,000)

South Kensington – Christie's annual Cricket, Tennis and Traditional Sports sale takes place on 24 June. The sale features a particularly strong cricket section, including a cap and bat belonging to Australia's greatest cricketing legend. Estimates range from £200-£50,000 and the 200-lot sale is expected to fetch in excess of £200,000.

Sir Donald Bradman (1908-2001) needs no introduction. A true sporting great, Bradman is revered as one of the greatest cricketers of all time. Christie's is delighted to announce the sale of two significant career milestone lots. The first lot, a 'Baggy Green' cap from the 1946-7 season, represents Bradman's post-war comeback after eight years away from the field. Against the odds, after the interruption of war and illness, he continued the captaincy of the national cricket team and in the season 1946-7 scored 680 runs in the five Ashes tests,

leading the team to a memorable victory. Worn throughout this series, the cap carries an estimate of £10,000–20,000. The second lot is an important bat used in his successful first tour of England in 1930. During that tour Bradman smashed R.E. Foster's England-Australia Test record, scoring over the five tests a total of 2,960 runs. Inscribed by Bradman, 'This bat was used by me during a large proportion of the 1930 tour of England and amongst the many scores made with it, one 205 not out v Kent and 232 in the 5th test at the Oval when Australia won the ashes. Has made in all over 1000 runs', the bat is estimated at £25,000–50,000.

Other cricket highlights include two original watercolour portraits dating from the 1840s. Painted by C.J.Basebe, these well-known works provided the original images for a popular series of prints (estimate range: £1,000–£5,000). The Herbert Hirst Collection (1871–1954) features a multitude of objects belonging to this Yorkshire all-rounder. Including a benefit album, pocket watch, 200th wicket commemorative ball, sash, commemorative mug, library, photographs and even a leather-bound suitcase, this 25-lot collection offers a great opportunity to snap up memorabilia relating to Yorkshire's highest-ever scoring batsman (341 against Leicestershire in 1905).

Tennis highlights include a selection of early tilt-head rackets dating from the 1870s, with estimates ranging from £800–3,000; early Wimbledon programmes from the 1930s–1950s, split into four lots (estimate range: £200–£600) and a comical 1930s ceramic decanter set, with the decanter modelled as a tennis playing gentleman (estimate: £150–200).

###

South Kensington – Christie's annual Golf auction tees off on July 8, coinciding with the 2003 British Open Championship at The Belfry, and offers the enthusiast and collector alike a chance to own a slice of golfing history. Over 150 lots of golf clubs, golf balls, silver trophies, pictures, ceramics and golf medals are set to go under the hammer, with estimates ranging from £100 to £8,000. Highlights include a Golfiana Book of Poems, dated 1842 (estimate: £5,000–7,000), a feather-filled golf ball, circa 1840 (estimate: £3,000–5,000), and an oil painting of a young golfer attributed to William Marshall Brown (estimate: £5,000–8,000).

###

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