

For Immediate Release

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***Souvenirs of a Life with the Dukes of Windsor to be included the sale
Books, Autographs, and Travel
Christie's Rome.
June 17, 2004***

Rome - Christie's Italy announces that the George and Ofelia "Windsor Collection", a superb group of objects formerly in the possession of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, will be sold at the Books, Autographs, and Travel sale on June 17 in Rome. The collection comprises circa 200 lots ranging from personal objects, photographs and correspondence to vintage fashions. The entire collection is expected to realize in excess of 300.000 Euros.

The items once belonged to perhaps the most famous couple of the 20th century. The well-documented romance of the Bessie Wallis Warfield and Edward VIII of England made international headlines for decades. She was the divorced American, he was the King of England who abdicated the throne to marry the woman he loved. The couple lived primarily in France and moved constantly in prominent international social circles.

Highlights include dedicated photographs, letters addressed to the couple, correspondence from the Duchess' youth and from her previous marriages. Items from the couple's personal cellar, pipes and cigars from the Duke's reserves are also included in the sale, as well as a set

of china bearing the Duke's coat of arms, precious frames, monogrammed boxes, and objects of vertu.

In addition Christie's Italy will offer elegant couture and vintage fashion that belonged to the Duchess as well as items from the Duke's wardrobe. Also featured in the sale is the Duke's bear, a good luck charm he was said to take everywhere with him.

The collection was inherited by descent by a former valet of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and the nephew of the couple's head butler, Gaston Sanegre.

Sanegre entered the household in 1948 at Chateau de Croé, the French Riviera home of the Duke and Duchess. Nicknamed George by the Duchess, he then fell in love and married Ofelia, the Duchess' companion, originally from Elba, Italy. The couple remained with the Duchess until after her death in 1986.

In 1957, Ofelia's 18 year old Italian nephew came to work as the Duke's Valet in their Parisian Bois de Boulogne residence, where he remained with the Duke for many years before returning to Italy, yet always stayed in close contact with his royal benefactors.

During their years of service to the couple, George and Ofelia received many gifts and objects from Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Without direct descendants, George and Ofelia left their nephew many of their royal souvenirs, which he cherished all these years in memory of his youth and of his favorite uncle and aunt.

Further information will be available in a fully illustrated catalogue to be published in the mid May.