

*For Immediate Release*

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**CHRISTIE'S TO AUCTION A SELECTION OF VINTAGE WRISTWATCHES FROM  
THE COLLECTION OF ERIC CLAPTON**

*Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches, Featuring Property from the Collection of Eric Clapton*

*June 5, 2003*

*New York, NY – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale 25 vintage wristwatch from the collection of Eric Clapton at Christie's Rockefeller Center on June 5. This superb collection of 23 vintage Rolex wristwatches and two Patek Philippe wristwatches demonstrates the master bluesman's passion and precision as a watch collector. The various-owner section of the sale will also offer an exceptional offering of gentleman's platinum pocket watches and 18<sup>th</sup> century pocket watches, and vintage and contemporary wristwatches.*

*From the Collection of Eric Clapton*

*Eric Clapton remains to be the only artist inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame three times. He has played in such influential bands as the Yardbirds, Cream, Blind Faith, Delaney & Bonnie, Derek and the Dominoes, as well as established himself as a legendary solo artist with his own distinct style.*

*The vintage Rolex highlights from his collection include two examples of a very rare self-winding water-resistance triple calendar wristwatch with phases of the moon, reference 6062 – one in stainless steel, circa 1953 (estimate: \$60,000–80,000), the other in yellow gold with a two-tone star dial, circa 1954 (estimate: \$90,000–110,000). Other Rolex highlights include the very desirable stainless steel triple calendar chronograph wristwatch, ref. 6236, circa 1964 (estimate: \$80,000–100,000) and an extremely rare stainless steel prototype Yacht Master Daytona, ref. 6239, circa 1965 (estimate: \$60,000–80,000).*

*The Clapton selection also includes two highly collectible Patek Philippe wristwatches - an 18K pink gold water-resistant chronograph wristwatch, ref. 1463, circa 1950 (estimate: \$120,000-150,000) and an 18K yellow gold perpetual calendar wristwatch with phases of the moon, ref. 1526, circa 1949 (estimate: \$60,000-80,000). Very few examples of reference 1463 were produced in 18K pink gold, and a total of only 210 examples of reference 1526 were ever produced.*

#### *Various Owner Highlights*

*The firms Rolex and Patek Philippe are also represented in the various owner sale with important examples, including a stainless steel Rolex self-winding triple calendar wristwatch with phases of the moon, ref. 8171, circa 1953 (estimate: \$20,000-25,000).*

*An unusual Patek Philippe wristwatch, easily distinguishable from other Patek Philippe chronograph wristwatches of the era, is an 18K pink gold chronograph wristwatch, ref. 1579, circa 1949 (estimate: \$40,000-50,000). The production of this model, which features angular lugs and a large case, was launched in 1943.*

*For collectors of contemporary wristwatches, the auction includes one of the rarest perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch models produced by Patek Philippe in recent years - an 18K pink gold and diamond-set cushion-shaped wristwatch with phases of the moon and pink dial, ref. 5021 (estimate: \$70,000-90,000). It is the first example to be offered at auction, and one of the only examples made in 18K pink gold with a diamond-set pink dial.*

*An extremely rare Audemars Piguet pocket watch offered in the sale is an 18K gold openface minute repeating perpetual calendar split second chronograph keyless lever watch with phases of the moon and two-tone dial, circa 1925 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Examples of complicated Audemars Piguet pocket watches with two-tone dials are rarely seen on the market.*

*Also included in the sale is a rare large gilt metal and pearl-set pair case verge clock watch with center second and ages of the moon (estimate: \$6,000-8,000). This clock watch, which is finely detailed with pierced and engraved floral and scroll decoration, was made in the 1770s by John Ilbury who was active in London during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Auction: Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches*

*June 5*

*Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center*

*May 30 - June 4*

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*Images available upon request*

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