

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2006

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ESTABLISHES NEW WORLD AUCTION
RECORD FOR A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT WHEN 1707
STRADIVARI VIOLIN SELLS FOR \$3.5 MILLION**

***The Hammer* Surpasses Previous World Auction Record By \$1.5 million**

New York – In today's sale of *Fine Musical Instruments*, a violin known as *The Hammer* made by Antonio Stradivari in 1707, achieved \$3,544,000, smashing the previous world auction record for any musical instrument against a presale estimate of \$1,500,000-2,500,000. This price largely surpasses the previous record of \$2,032,000 realized by *The Lady Tennant* Stradivari sold in April 2005 at Christie's New York.

With only 620 Stradivari in existence, *The Hammer* survives in a wonderful state of preservation. With its superb outline and the use of the finest materials, the violin dates from the maker's 'Golden Period' (1700-1720). These works are the ones most coveted by collectors and musicians for both their beauty and superior tonal qualities. The violin's name, *The Hammer*, derives from the 19th century Swedish collector of the same name (Christian Hammer).

The sale of *Fine Musical Instruments* totaled \$5,501,680, achieving the highest sale total in musical instrument auction history.