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Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

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VINTAGE JEWELS & DIAMONDS SPARKLE AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE



Jewels: The London Sale 10 June 2009 at 11am

London – A selection of stunning vintage jewels and diamonds will be offered next week at **Christie's Jewels: The London Sale** on Wednesday, 10 June 2009. Spanning the late 18th century through to the 20th century, over 170 beautiful rings, bracelets, necklaces, pearls and single stones are featured, together with pieces from some of the most sought-after jewellers including Cartier, Chaumet, Bulgari and Van Cleef & Arpels. Estimates range from £1,000 to £250,000.

DIAMONDS



Amongst the selection of diamonds is a stunning Art Deco coloured diamond and onyx pendant, *circa* 1925. The dramatic 44.14 carat fancy yellow circular-cut diamond is the largest of this shape to be offered in London in living memory (estimate: £200,000-250,000), *illustrated left*. By family tradition this diamond originally belonged to Lady Roselyne Galway (1876-1963), whose second husband, Sir Henry Lionel Galway, was appointed governor of South Australia in 1914. Having been dedicated to charitable works throughout her life and established the British Red Cross Society in S. Australia, Lady Galway was considered by

contemporaries to have *'raised the whole status of women in public life.'*

Colourless diamonds are well represented and are led by an exceptionally beautiful antique diamond brooch, with six pear-shaped diamond drops which date to the late 18th century and are suspended

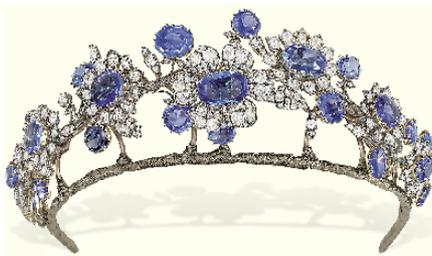
from a naturalistic leaf canopy (estimate: £150,000-200,000), *illustrated page one*. The diamonds are believed to originate from the Boehmer and Baszanger necklace. The Chateau de Versailles included this brooch in the 1955 exhibition *Marie-Antoinette, Archduchesse, Dauphine et Reine*; commemorating the bi-centenary of Marie Antoinette's birth. A further piece with provenance believed to trace directly back to Marie Antoinette, is a historically important natural pearl, diamond and ruby necklace (estimate: £200,000-250,000). *For more information please contact the press office.*



Elsewhere, an antique diamond rivièrè, which dates to the late 19th century, epitomises timeless elegance (estimate: £45,000-65,000), *illustrated left*. Sparkling perfection is found in a square-shaped 3.67 carat internally flawless, D colour diamond ring (estimate: £60,000-80,000); a 10.09 carat cushion-shaped, F colour VS2 clarity diamond ring in a mount by Chaumet (estimate: £170,000-190,000) is also offered.

ANTIQUÉ AND VINTAGE JEWELS:

This sale offers an extensive array of exceptional vintage jewels, spanning Georgian, Edwardian, Belle Époque and Art Deco examples. Georgian treasures include a particularly fine pair of diamond ear pendants with old-cut diamond pear-shaped panels suspended from diamond-set bows, *circa* 1800 (estimate: £25,000-35,000), *illustrated right*. It is extremely rare to find an original pair of such superb proportion and quality. One of the earliest diamond tiaras ever offered at Christie's is from the property of a nobleman and is designed as a series of foliate scrolls, with a central panel of pear-shaped rose-cut diamond collet, with a stylised plume, *circa* 1790 (estimate: £15,000-20,000).



An enchanting antique sapphire and diamond parure, *circa* 1850, of noble provenance will be offered as four lots, each of foliate and floral designs: a tiara (estimate: £20,000-30,000) *illustrated left*; a pair of ear pendants (estimate: £8,000-10,000); a necklace (estimate; £10,000-15,000) and a brooch (estimate: £10,000-15,000). It is most likely that these captivating light-blue sapphires

are from Ceylon, where sapphires and a wide variety of other gem stones were found in abundance during the 19th century; this is due to the fact that geologically this is the oldest part of the world. These jewels are offered to the market for the first time in over 30 years, having last been sold as the *Barberini Jewels* at Christie's Geneva in 1971.

ART DECO AND CARTIER:

The powerful geometry and *joie de vivre* which is synonymous with Art Deco design is celebrated in a glamorous, important ruby and diamond necklace by Cartier, 1936 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) *illustrated right*. This impressive jewel also converts into a brooch and a pair of bracelets; it was formerly the property of the first Baroness Ravensdale of Kedleston (1896-1966), the first daughter of the first Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, and has passed by descent.



Always a highlight of the sale, the Cartier section also features an Art Deco gem-set pendant, *circa* 1925, featuring emerald beads, cabochon sapphires, diamonds and onyx rondelles; this combination of perfectly balanced colour and design is quintessentially Cartier (estimate: £35,000-45,000) *illustrated right*. Other examples range from a rare pair of silver and glass candlesticks, *circa* 1905, which are believed to be unique (estimate: £6,000-8,000); an amusing early 20th century diamond pendant (£1,000-1,500); a George V five pound coin watch (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and a Belle Époque emerald and diamond ring (estimate: £7,000-9,000).



Amongst the many other examples featured from this period and by other top jewellery houses is a very good early Bulgari Art Deco emerald and diamond brooch, *circa* 1935 (estimate: £10,000-15,000); an Art Deco emerald and diamond bracelet by Van Cleef and Arpels, 1924 (estimate: £18,000-22,000) and a late 1920s diamond bracelet with articulated panels of baguette-cut diamonds, which are arranged in a dynamic zigzag motif (estimate: £15,000-20,000), *illustrated left*.



PEARLS

Pearls continue to be particularly sought-after and the sale includes some beautiful examples of natural pearls. An antique natural pearl, diamond and enamel brooch, *circa* 1890 (estimate: £25,000-35,000), with a bouton-shaped pearl of 28.87 carats and a drop-shaped natural pearl of 24.85 carats, is a particularly captivating piece. Highly decorative, it comprises an old-cut diamond flower-head surround, diamond-set foliage and entwined enamelled serpents. Further examples include an antique diamond and pearl necklace, *circa* 1890 (estimate: £30,000-35,000); a single strand natural pearl necklace of 103 graduated pearls (estimate: £20,000-30,000); a pair of beautiful natural pearl and diamond ear pendants (estimate: £20,000-25,000) and a natural pearl necklace, with five rows of 137, 129, 116 and 115 graduated pearls, *circa* 1925 (estimate: £12,000-15,000).



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Notes to Editors:

Auction: Jewels: The London Sale, Christie's King Street on Wednesday 10 June 2009: 11.00am

Public Viewing:

Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT: Friday, 5 June – Tuesday, 9 June 2009

About Christie's

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