

For Immediate Release

4 June 2007

Contact: Rhiannon Broomfield
Matthew Paton

+44 (0) 20 7389 2117
+44 (0) 20 7389 2965

rbroomfield@christies.com
mpaton@christies.com

DUMFRIES HOUSE, CUMNOCK, AYRSHIRE, SCOTLAND

London – Christie's announce that discussions concerning a private treaty sale of Dumfries House and its contents have ended.

"Considerable effort has been made over the last three years by John Bute and Christie's to try and secure an agreement and move forward towards a private treaty sale. Sadly this has not proved possible," said Charles Cator, Deputy Chairman of Christie's International.

John Bute's intentions regarding the sale have been public since 2004 giving relevant heritage bodies both notice and opportunity to consider and propose an offer. It had always been his hope that a private treaty sale solution might be found.

In a final effort to achieve such a solution, formal notification was given to those promoting it, that because of operational issues surrounding both the sale of the House and Estate and the auction of the contents scheduled for 12 and 13 July 2007, a contract to purchase had to be completed by 1 June 2007. No formal offer has been made and the scheduled sales of the property and estate will proceed as planned.

"The sale of Dumfries House and Estate is proceeding well, with significant international interest received. A closing date for offers for the property will be set in the near future," said Anna Thomas, Savills.

John Bute said at the time of announcing the sale: *"In order to re-structure family finances and to devolve modern assets to the next generation of my family I have instructed Christie's and Savills to bring Dumfries House and its contents to the market. Because Mount Stuart, the Bute estate and the island of Bute's community are the focal point of my family's interests, the Dumfries Estate is not in my view central to Bute family heritage. It is an ideal asset to dispose of, as it is a relatively small, well-managed and profitable estate. I sincerely hope that the disposal of Dumfries House and the Dumfries Estate will create opportunities for the new owners which will ultimately be beneficial to the local communities of Cumnock and Auchinleck as well as the wider community of East Ayrshire."*

#

For any further information please contact Christie's Press Office

Notes to Editors:

- Dumfries House was designed and built by John, Robert and James Adam between 1754 and 1759 and contains the most important collection of Rococo furniture by Thomas Chippendale to remain in private hands, and the only fully documented furniture commission dating to his seminal *Director* period. A landmark auction in the history of collecting, the sale is expected to attract the interest of private collectors and institutions from around the world. Dumfries House and 1,940 acre estate have been brought to the market by *Savills*.
- *Dumfries House* will be on public view at Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT from 9 to 12 July 2007. For general enquiries, contact Christie's on +44 (0)207 839 9060 or visit www.christies.com
- For press enquiries regarding Christie's auction of Dumfries House, please contact Rhiannon Broomfield +44 (0) 207 389 2117 rbroomfield@christies.com / Matthew Paton +44 (0) 207 389 2965 mpaton@christies.com
- For press enquiries regarding Savills sale of Dumfries House and 1,904 acre estate, please contact John Vaughan, Savills Press Office: +44 (0) 20 7034 4725