

For Immediate Release

14 June 2006

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**A ROYAL COLLECTION AT CHRISTIE'S
THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARGARET,
COUNTESS OF SNOWDON REALISES £13.6 MILLION (\$25.1 MILLION / €19.9
MILLION)**

Tuesday, 13 & Wednesday, 14 June 2006

Christie's King Street

London – The two-day sale of Jewellery, Fabergé, Silver, Furniture and Works of Art from the Private Collection of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon held on 13 & 14 June 2006 at Christie's realised £13,658,728 (\$25,104,742/€19,941,742). This historic auction generated unprecedented interest and exceeded all pre-sale expectations with 100% of lots selling.

Many clients travelled great distances to attend the sale and were joined in the activity throughout the two days by over 2,500 clients who left written bids or bid in person, by telephone and online at christies.com. Registered buyer activity was 30% from the UK; 44% from the rest of Europe; 17% from the Americas; 9% from Asia and the Middle East.

"The extraordinary results of this important and unparalleled sale are a wonderful tribute to a beautiful and stylish Princess. HRH The Princess Margaret's wide-spread appeal was reflected in the exceptional prices achieved throughout the sale, as buyers from all over the world bid fiercely, sending prices soaring above their pre-sale estimates," said Francois Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Europe, who was also the auctioneer of the sale.

Jewellery and Fabergé

The top lot of the sale was a superb Fabergé translucent mauve enamelled silver clock applied with gold decorative elements, Moscow, 1896-1908 which sold for £1,240,000 (\$2,281,600) to an anonymous buyer. A gift from H.M. Queen Mary (estimate: £600,000-800,000), the clock was highly sought by Russian clients as well as other international bidders. The group of thirteen pieces by Fabergé, fetched a total of £2,735,600 (\$5,033,504).

The first lot of the sale, a ruby and pearl necklace worn by Princess Margaret on her second birthday, set a precedent that was followed throughout the two-day auction, selling for over 20

times its low estimate at £27,600. Both personal and historic pieces were fiercely sought-after such as an antique diamond rivièrè, *circa* 1900, accompanied by three handwritten notes naming the necklace after a previous owner as the 'Lady Mount Stephen' which sold for £993,600 (\$1,828,224). It had been given to Princess Margaret by her grandmother Her Majesty Queen Mary (1867-1953) (estimate: £200,000-300,000).

Another important and historic piece was the 'Poltimore Tiara' which was originally created by Royal Jeweller, Garrard, in 1870 for Lady Poltimore, the wife of the second Baron Poltimore which sold for £926,400 (\$1,704,576). The Princess wore it on several occasions including her wedding and, in its alternative form, as a stunning diamond fringe necklace and scroll brooches prior to the wedding (estimate £150,000-200,000).

Silver, Furniture and Works of Art

The second day of the sale which included Silver, Furniture and Works of Art from Princess Margaret's private collection was led by *Portrait of Princess Margaret* painted in 1957 by society and state portrait artist, Pietro Annigoni (1910-1988) which sold for £680,000 (\$1,249,570), setting a new world auction record for the artist. Annigoni rose to fame in 1954 following a commission from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers to paint the young Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Further highlights included an engraved gold cigarette-case by Cartier given to Princess Margaret by her father H.M. King George VI for Christmas in 1949 (estimate: £3,000-5,000) which sold for £102,000 (\$187,476) and a pair of George III silver-gilt wine-coasters (estimate: £10,000-15,000) which were regularly used on the sideboard in the Dining-Room of the Private Apartment of The Princess at Kensington Palace which sold for £26,400 (\$48,523).

Amongst the hundreds of items of royal ephemera snapped up by collectors was Princess Margaret's three umbrella's from the 1960s/1970s (estimate: £200-300) which sold for £2,400 (\$4,411); a 19th century silver miniature saw (estimate: £100-200) which sold for £12,000 (\$22,056); three bottles of Kensington Palace white wine bottled in 1977 (estimate: £200-300) which sold £4,800 (\$8,822) and Princess Margaret's Disney breakfast set (estimate: £200-300) which sold for £7,200 (\$13,234).

A separate comment issued on behalf of Lord Linley is available from Christie's Press Office.

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