

For Immediate Release

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TRAGIC TITANIC LOTS AT CHRISTIE'S PROVIDE A HAUNTING REMINDER OF THE INFAMOUS 1912 MARITIME DISASTER

Ocean Liner
June 28, 2007

New York – Eighteen lots relating to the ill-fated ship *R.M.S. Titanic* are to be offered at Christie's New York's *Ocean Liner* sale on June 28. They provide a haunting reminder of the infamous 1912 maritime sinking, a disaster that still grips the public imagination almost a century later. Five lots lead the *R.M.S. Titanic* memorabilia section:

- The deck log from cable ship *S.S. MacKay-Bennett*, the second rescue ship on the scene after the *R.M.S. Carpathia*, tells the story of the recovery of the dead and is the most significant lot from a rescue ship ever offered for sale (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). The ship was the first of four ships chartered by the White Star Line to search for bodies after the sinking and had Canon Kenneth Cameron Hind of All Saints, Halifax and John R. Snow, Jr., the chief embalmer from Nova Scotia's largest undertaking firm, onboard to oversee the arrangements. When the ship reached the wreck site, it quickly became apparent far more bodies were floating in the ocean than anyone had expected and more ships were chartered to help. After seven days of searching, 306 bodies were recovered – of these, 116 were buried at sea, with 190 remaining on board, almost twice as many as there were caskets available.
- A two-lot collection of 12 Marconi grams written by survivors on board the *R.M.S. Carpathia* reveals the emotional toil of the disaster (estimates: one lot of seven, \$7,000-10,000; one lot of five, \$5,000-7,000). Messages include: *Safe on Carpathia. Jacques not here.; Let any one meet us but no children. My hope gone.; and Father not seen no hope arrive Carpathia Wednesday New York Richard.*

- A first-class passenger list includes a number of prominent New York family members on board when the ship sank, including Colonel and Mrs. J.J. Astor; Mr. Benjamin Guggenheim; and Mr. & Mrs. Isidor Straus (estimate: \$15,000-20,000).
- An original eight-page hand-written account of the *R.M.S. Titanic* disaster by survivor and New Jersey native Laurie Marie Cribb (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). Laurie survived, rescued in boat no.12 by the *R.M.S. Carpathia*, but her father perished.

Further highlights in the 220-lot sale include paintings by Fred Pansing, Fred Hoertz, Antonio Jacobsen and E.W. Bearman, and decorative arts from many ships including the Eugenio C, Stella Solaris, Normandie and France/Norway. A strong selection of original shipping posters will be offered as well as unique pieces recovered from the *Andrea Doria*.

Auction:	Ocean Liner	June 28 at 10 a.m.
Viewing:	Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center	June 22 – 27

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