

For Immediate Release

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A RARE AND IMPORTANT YUAN DYNASTY JAR SELLS FOR £15.7 MILLION / \$27.7 MILLION / €22.7 MILLION AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON – A NEW WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR AN ASIAN WORK OF ART

Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Christie's King Street

12 July 2005

London – Christie's sold the most expensive Asian Work of Art ever today when an exceptionally rare and important blue and white jar, Yuan Dynasty, 14th century, realized £15,688,000 / \$27,679,100 / €22,731,912. After a fierce bidding battle with over six clients vying over the telephone and in the room, the jar was eventually acquired by Eskenazi Ltd for a private buyer. This is not only a world record price ever paid for any Chinese Work of Art, it is also the highest price paid for any work of art sold at Christie's this year.

Desmond Healey, Director and Head of Department, said: *"We are delighted with this record breaking result. This is an exceptional Chinese work of art, preserved for centuries in exquisite condition, and was a very rare piece to come to the market."*

Dating from the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), the rare, and previously unrecorded, blue and white *guan* jar is finely decorated with a narrative scene in vibrant underglaze cobalt blue. The jar, which depicts scenes from contemporary literature, is thought to be one of only eight to have survived to the present day. Featuring a peony scroll band around the shoulders and a petal band around the base, the jar has vividly painted scenes from the story of the conflict between the states of Yan and Qi in the Warring States period (AD475-221). A figure in a cart, pulled by a tiger and a leopard, follows two foot soldiers running by a stream. Over the bridge is a scholarly figure on a piebald horse looking across a rocky landscape to another horseman. The jar was acquired in China by Captain Baron Haro van Hemert, a keen collector of art, who was in the Dutch Marine Corps, and was stationed in Beijing from 1913 to 1923.

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Images available on request

NOTES TO EDITORS

FORMER WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR ASIAN ART AND CHINESE CERAMICS:

1) A highly important massive Bronze Ritual Wine Jar, Fanglei

Late Shang/Early Western Zhou Dynasty

Sold at: CHRISTIE'S New York

Sold on: 20/3/2001

Lot:156

Sold for: **US\$9,246,000**

2) Massive Blue and White Porcelain 'Pilgram' Flask

Yuan Dynasty

The F. Gordon Morrill Collection - Chinese & Chinese Export Porcelain

Sold at: Doyle, New York

Sold on: 16/09/2003

Lot: 74

Sold for: **US\$5,831,500**

Former Highest Price for any work of art sold at Christie's this year:

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale

May 4, 2005, New York

LOT	PRICE	ESTIMATE	BUYER
7	\$27,456,000 £14,526,984/€21,283,721	\$8,000,000-12,000,000	Anonymous
Constantin Brancusi, <i>Oiseau dans l'espace</i> , 1922-1923			

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR THE ARTIST

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A SCULPTURE