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Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

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***CHRISTIE'S SUCCESSION SALE OF THE LATE MONSEIGNEUR LE
COMTE DE PARIS AND MADAME LA COMTESSE DE PARIS***



Christie's Paris
Tuesday 14 October 2008

Paris – Christie's are proud to announce that The Princes and Princesses of La Maison de France have entrusted them to sell items from their late parent's estate in Paris. This succession sale will be the last testimony of this historic family who reigned over France for almost 1000 years.

Nearly 600 lots, mainly from the Monseigneur le Comte de Paris and Madame la Comtesse de Paris's latest residence in *rue Miromesnil* in Paris, will be sold at Christie's Paris on Tuesday, 14 October. The collection consists of important silver, paintings, furniture, miniatures, works of art and jewels. These objects reveal precious and personal memories of the Royal Family, notably of Louis-Philippe, Marie-Amélie, Marie-Antoinette, Louis XVII, as well as other members of d'Orléans family and numerous foreign sovereigns who are related to them.

Extremely rare and personal historical pieces

- A wallet embroidered by Queen Marie-Antoinette whilst she was in captivity in prison promises to be one of the particularly touching pieces of the sale. It was given to the Dauphin's governess, Madame de Tourzel, who passed it on to Marie-Antoinette's daughter Madame Royale in December 1795 when she was released from "La prison du Temple" as a final memory of her late mother.



- Another rare and personal object is a wooden box decorated with a miniature depicting the young Louis XVII in jail. The object is dated 24 December 1794 and bears the following inscription: « *Cher par son objet, cher par celui qui le traça, il est pour moi, un gage de souvenir et de tendresse* ». It is one of the very few portraits in existence of the young king at the Temple (estimate €6,000 – 8,000).

- The sale will offer further personal objects from different members of the Royal Family, such as Louis-Philippe's razor presented in a morocco black case (estimate €150-200), several glasses and sunglasses by Bodson and Dixey of London (estimate €150-200), a pair of gloves which belonged to Queen Amélie of Portugal (estimate €300-500), walking sticks and an eyeglass from the Duc de Chartres (estimate €150-200), a lock of King Louis XVI hair, preserved in a mother-of-pearl case (estimate €2.000-3.000) and the wedding rings of Philippe Egalité, Duc d'Orléans and Marie-Adélaïde de Bourbon-Penthièvre's dating 1767 (estimate €500-700).

Amongst the objects of French historic importance is the map of the battle of Jemmapes' which belonged to the Duc de Chartes, future King Louis-Philippe 1st and King Louis-Philippe's fountain pen, which he used to sign the Abdication Act on 24 February 1848. The pen is offered together with a personal letter (estimate €300-500).

19th Century Romantic Jewels



- The collection includes a rare set of romantic jewels adorned with miniatures depicting members of the Royal family. Among them are four bracelets from the private collection of Marie-Amélie des Deux Siciles, the last Queen of France. They are adorned with 24 miniatures, each depicting one of her grandchildren. Most of them are signed by François Meuret (1800-1887), one of the most famous miniaturists of the 19th Century (estimate €8,000-10,000).

- A diamond brooch in the form of an M and Y, monogram of the first Comtesse de Paris (1848-1919), is a very rare example of the insignia worn by the French throne pretender wife's ladies-in-waiting after the collapse of the monarchy (estimate €3,000-4,000). A beautiful pair of diamond and turquoise brooches offered to the second Comtesse de Paris (1911-2003) on the occasion of her wedding in 1931, is also part of this section.



Royal Seals

- Approximately 60 seals from the 19th century made from a variety of materials such as gold, silver, ivory, bronze, crystal, hardstone and mother-of-pearl will be offered. All seals bear the arms of the Orléans family and either the Royal or Imperial crown, or the French fleur de lys. A seal made of bronze with the arms of the Dauphin (estimate €2,000-3,000) and one made of bloodstone, surmounted by a royal crown with the initials M&A (for Marie-Amélie) (estimate €800-1,200) are just two examples in the collection.

Furniture and works of art



- This section includes the furniture of the Comte and Comtesse de Paris' last residence at rue de Miromesnil in Paris. Elegant in style, the furniture ranges from antique and period pieces through to examples of modern design from Italian, Portuguese, German and Dutch provenances. Several objects were inherited by Queen Amélie of Portugal (the Comte de Paris' aunt), including a very special chest made of padouk covered in blue velvet and with the inscription "Service de S.A.R. Monseigneur Duc d'Aumale" (estimate €800-1,200).
- Private presents offered by reigning houses enrich the Orléans family collection, such as an porcelain ashtray on a pedestal given by the Princess Grace de Monaco (estimate €800-1,200) and two beautiful carpets given by King Zaher Shah of Afghanistan (estimate € 2,500 -3,500).

Silverware

- A splendid set of XIX century silver-gilt tableware, by Odier and Prevost comprises more than 600 forks, knives, spoons, fish and dessert cutleries, 50 dishes, vegetable dishes, saltcellars, sauceboats as well as a tea and coffee set. Each piece is engraved with the Orléans armorial and the French princely crown. This set of tableware points to the splendor of the large receptions held at the Manor d'Anjou in Belgium or at Cœur Volant in Louveciennes. This entire set will be divided in three lots, each estimated to realise between €15,000 and €20,000.



Paintings and drawings

- A sketch of the famous portrait of the Comte de Paris as a child by François-Xavier Winterhalter (1805-1873) is one of the top lots of the sale (estimate €80,000-120,000). When Winterhalter arrived in Paris in 1834, he was discovered by Queen Marie-Amélie and commissioned to paint several portraits of the French Royal Family. Today several of these portraits are part of the collection of the chateau de Versailles.
- The painting section also includes two portraits of Madame la Comtesse de Paris, born Princess Isabelle d'Orléans-Bragance (1911-2003). The first work is by Vidal Quadras (1903-1962) and dates from the 1950's (estimate €3,000- €5,000). The second portrait is by the famous Brazilian artist Candido Portinari (1903-1962) and is estimated to realise between €20,000 and €40,000.

Notes to Editors:

Henri de France (1908-1999), former head of La Maison de France and throne pretender, received the title Comte de Paris in 1929. He married his cousin Isabelle d'Orléans-Bragance in Palermo in 1931. Following the repeal of the French exile law in 1950 le Comte and la Comtesse returned to France and settled at "Cœur- Volant" in Louveciennes, between Versailles and Paris. Later in life they moved to Paris. In 1974, inspired by a memorable exhibition at the "Archives Nationales de Paris", the Comte and Comtesse de Paris set up their own foundation "Fondation Saint-Louis" to which they entrusted their family residences and treasures.

Viewing dates: 10-13 October 2008

Sale date: 14 October 2008

Christie's Paris – 9 avenue Matignon – 75008 Paris