

For Immediate Release

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SILVER FROM DOWNING STREET AT CHRISTIE'S IN AUGUST

The Silver Trust Collection: Contemporary British Silver for use at 10 Downing Street

AN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SILVER AT CHRISTIE'S

EXHIBITION

4 – 21 August 2003 – Admission Free

Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD

London – An important exhibition, *Contemporary British Silver for use at 10 Downing Street*, will be staged by the Silver Trust in August 2003 at Christie's South Kensington to celebrate British silver from the 19th century to the 21st century used at the Prime Minister's residence.

Presented in a dining setting, the exhibition will include over 300 pieces of silver from the Silver Trust Collection, which are normally housed in the dining and state rooms at 10 Downing Street. The exhibition provides an opportunity to see dining settings which are used by prime ministers, presidents and other important dignitaries. Highlights will include a beautiful golden bowl which was created from gold given to the Trust by the South African government. The bowl was used during a dinner held for the Queen at Downing Street to celebrate her Golden Jubilee.

The Silver Trust is a registered charity formed in 1987 by Mr Rupert Hambro, Lady Falkender, Lady Henderson and Miss Jean Muir to promote a wider public knowledge of British silversmiths, who are renowned as the finest in the world. The Collection, which is on permanent loan to 10 Downing Street, gives silversmiths an outstanding platform for their skills and celebrates a great tradition of silver in England today.

“The exhibition is designed to promote a wider appreciation and understanding of contemporary British silver. British silversmiths are amongst the finest in the world and we are proud to be fostering and encouraging an interest in this field,” says Christopher English, secretary of the Silver Trust.

The exhibition will include pieces by some of the most well-known British silversmiths including Gerald Benney and Michael Rowe and contemporary silversmiths such as Kevin Coates and Toby Russell.

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Images available on request

Notes to Editors:

Exhibition: *The Silver Trust Collection: Contemporary British Silver for use at 10 Downing Street: 4 – 21 August 2003 – Admission Free*
Time: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 1-4pm
Venue: Christie’s, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD
Enquiries: Christopher English
website: www.silvertrust.co.uk. Telephone: 0207 292 3785
Press Enquiries: Christie’s press office 0207 389 2664

About the Silver Trust Collection

The Silver Trust is a registered charity formed in 1987 by Mr Rupert Hambro, Lady Falkender, Lady Henderson and Miss Jean Muir to promote a wider public knowledge of British silversmiths, who are renowned as the finest in the world. The Trustees believed that with the creation of this Collection, to be offered on permanent loan to HM Government for use by the Prime Minister at No 10, the silversmiths would be given an outstanding platform for their skills. This, they felt, would encourage patronage by British and overseas collectors.

Christie’s Silver September-December 2003 London Calendar

Selected Silver and Plate - 9 September, South Kensington
CSK at Home, Silver and Plate – 7 October, South Kensington
CSK at Home, Silver and Plate – 4 November, South Kensington
Silver and Plate – 18 November, South Kensington
Silver – 25 November, King Street
Silver and Plate – 2 December, South Kensington