

For Immediate Release

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A GRAND TOUR AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON IN OCTOBER



Watercolours from the Grand Tour from a Private Collection
Wednesday 12 October 2005 at 10.30am

South Kensington – Watercolours from the Grand Tour by the brothers Edward and Robert Henry Cheney will be offered at Christie's South Kensington this autumn, on Wednesday 12 October 2005. Comprising 120 lots, the sale includes watercolours, pen and ink drawings, sketchbooks and albums created by the brothers, during a long sojourn in Italy, and while staying with friends around the British Isles and France during the years 1829 – 1838. As the works have always been kept in albums or folios, their condition remains remarkably fresh.

Young and talented, the two Cheney sons were left a substantial legacy by their father, General Robert Cheney of Badger Hall, Shropshire, who died in 1820. Robert moved to Rome with his widowed mother Harriet in 1825 and settled in the Palazzo Sciarra on the Corso between Piazza Colonna and Piazza Venezia. While in residence he painted richly coloured watercolours of the places he visited, his views of Rome and the Campagna, Florence, Sienna, Tivoli and Venice betray the unmistakeable influence of Thomas Hartley Crome and Edward Lear, while his English views at Shrublands, Ampthill, Fawsley and Eydon Hall show the expansive washes and feathery light touch of Peter de Wint. While Robert painted in full watercolour, Edward preferred to work in pen and ink.

The collection includes some wonderful closely worked topographical views by Edward particularly around Sicily and Naples but his main focus was as a serious collector of Old Master Paintings, Sculpture, Drawings and Prints. Most of Edward's picture collection was sold at Christie's in a sale on 29 April 1885, the artists ranging from Bonifaccio and Guardi to Schiavone and Tiepolo. A further sale took place in May 1905.

The boys' mother, Harriet Cheney was also a talented artist and put together delightful albums dedicated to recording her friends and family, some painted in the manner of the old masters, others in exotic costumes. Famous figures of the time who sat for her include Emma Hamilton, Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, Lady Crowther and Lady Grosvenor.

Passed down through the family by generations, this is the first time such a large collection of works by these artists have come up at auction. They are expected to generate lively interest among collectors and homemakers alike. With estimates ranging from a few hundred pounds to £8,000, the sale will provide an ideal opportunity to acquire a beautifully fresh and unique work of art or as a reminder of a much-loved holiday.

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

Auction Viewing Times:

Saturday 8 October	10am – 4pm
Sunday 9 October	10am – 4pm
Monday 10 October	9am – 7.30pm
Tuesday 11 October	9am – 5pm

Auction: Wednesday 12 October 2005 at 11am

In 2005 Christie's South Kensington will have the following opening hours:

Monday 9am – 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm

And will be open for Weekend Shopping on:

Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays.

Christie's South Kensington is the first international auction house in London to offer regular weekend auctions.