

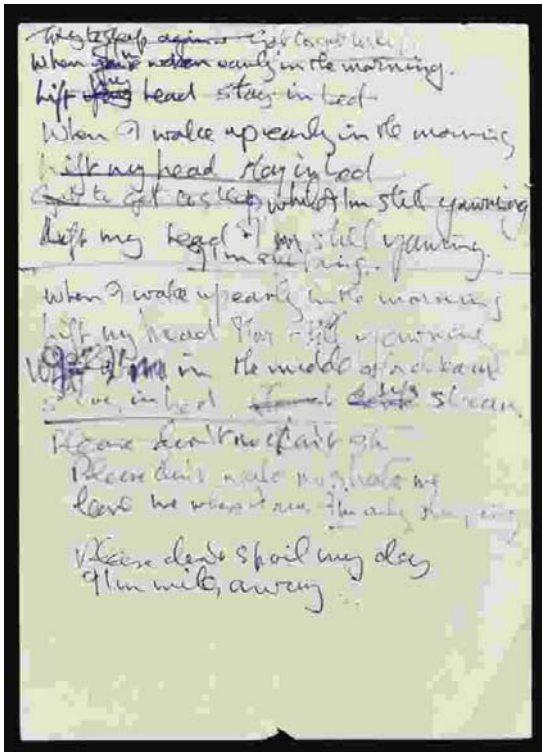
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## RARE BEATLES MEMORABILIA OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN SEPTEMBER



Rare first working draft of lyrics for *I'm Only Sleeping* writing in John Lennon's hand  
(Estimate in excess of £200,000)

## Pop Memorabilia

Wednesday, 28 September 2005 at 2pm

**South Kensington** – Leading Christie's **Pop Memorabilia** sale on 28 September 2005 is a rare first working draft of the lyrics for “*I’m Only Sleeping*” penned by John Lennon in 1966 for the groundbreaking *Revolver* album, which is estimated to fetch in excess of £200,000. This popular sale features over 230 lots of memorabilia relating to pop royalty from The Beatles through to Oasis, with estimates ranging from £200 up to £200,000.

## The Beatles / John Lennon

Given personally by John Lennon to the current owner, the first draft of the lyrics for *‘I’m Only Sleeping’* have remained in a private collection for over 30 years and appear at auction for the first time. The 17 lines were mostly written in blue pen on the reverse of a final demand from the GPO for Lennon’s car phone bill of £12.3.0 dated 25 April 1966.

*"I'm Only Sleeping"* is John's first song on the groundbreaking 1966 *Revolver* album. Mark Lewisohn describes *Revolver* as the album which "*shows the Beatles at peak of their creativity...one of those rare albums which is able to retain its original freshness and vitality. Quite simply...a masterpiece.*" In a Rolling Stone interview in 1968 with John Cott, John Lennon said of *"I'm Only Sleeping"* and other of his classics such as *"Lucy in the Sky"* and *"Strawberry Fields"* that they were songs *"that really meant something to me"*.

A further Beatles highlight is the only existing recording of the Beatles concert in Hong Kong at the Princess Theatre in Kowloon on 9 June 1964; prior to their tour of Australasia (estimate: £30,000-40,000). This unique recording was made by a freelance journalist in the audience using a portable tape recorder and gives an accurate impression of how the Beatles live act sounded to the audience. On this occasion Ringo Starr was ill with tonsillitis and had been replaced by Jimmy Nicol (Ringo joined the tour in Melbourne on 14 June 1964).

Locked away in a trunk for 36 years and never broadcast, is a previously unheard and undocumented recording of an hour long interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono conducted by freelance journalist Ken Seymour on 26 May 1969 at the *Bed-In For Peace* in Montreal, Canada (estimate: £15,000-20,000). Seymour was the first journalist to meet the couple in Montreal during one of their infamous 'bed-ins'. The interview was originally intended for a Canadian radio show *Something to Say* but it was never aired as shortly afterwards, Seymour had to rush home to England to his sick father. The interview is a vivid portrayal of the couple's relationship and preoccupations during one of the most optimistic and productive periods of their marriage.

### **Guitars: Eric Clapton & Pete Townshend**

Amongst the guitars offered in the sale is Pete Townshend's 1967 Coral Hornet in flame red which he gave to Frank Cornelli in 1978; Cornelli was lead guitarist of punk band The Skunks (estimate: £15,000-20,000). The guitar was used by Townshend on the Who's first American Tour and was later given to Cornelli after the Skunks signed to Townshend's Eel Pie label. Also offered is Eric Clapton's signed 1981 Fender Lead I guitar which he played on stage in the early 1980s (estimate: £3,000-5,000).

### **Pink Floyd**

A collection of Pink Floyd memorabilia from the Estate of Steve O'Rourke (1940-2003), their manager for 35 years, presents a terrific opportunity for Floyd fans to own their own piece of pop history, with estimates ranging from £200 to £800. Described as *one of the music industry's most respected backroom figures*, O'Rourke is credited with taking Pink Floyd beyond the confines of London and redefining the role of a manager. The 21 lots are estimated to fetch

around £5,000 and include gold and platinum discs, concert posters and promotional tour clothing.

### **Stage Costumes: The Clash & Freddie Mercury**

From the Collection of Vince White, guitarist with The Clash 1984-5 are 6 lots of stage costume worn by various Clash members including Joe Strummer, Paul Simonon and Mick Jones between 1978-84; estimates range from £300 to £1,500. Also offered is an all-in-one body suit worn by Freddie Mercury during Queen's 1978 US Tour (estimate: £5,000-7,000). Freddie gave the costume to Dane Clark, Queen's hairdresser/wardrobe keeper between 1976 and 1980.

### **Oasis**

A 1963 Gibson J-160E guitar given by Sony Music to Noel Gallagher in recognition of the worldwide success of *"(What's the Story) Morning Glory?"* December 1995 and played by Noel at numerous recordings and concerts is amongst a selection of memorabilia relating to the infamous Gallagher brothers (estimate: £4,000-6,000). The guitar was specifically chosen for Noel due to the association of this Gibson model with the Beatles; John Lennon and George Harrison both acquired matching J-160Es in 1962 at the beginning of their burgeoning musical careers. Also offered is a tambourine used by Liam Gallagher at the Oasis concert in Manchester on 3 July 2005 which is signed by Liam Gallagher, Noel Gallagher, Andy Bell and Zak Starkey (estimate: £400-600).

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Viewing**

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 September: 10am – 4pm

Monday 26 September 9am – 7.30pm

Tuesday 27 September 9am – 5pm

Wednesday 28 September 9am – 12noon

#### **Auction**

Wednesday, 28 September 2005 at 2pm

85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LD

Christie's has sold a wide range of memorabilia associated with Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Bob Marley, The Sex Pistols and Madonna, among many others. Christie's holds a number of world auction records including Eric Clapton's 'Blackie' guitar which was sold for \$959,500 in June 2004, becoming the most expensive guitar ever to have been sold at auction. Further highlights are John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to The Beatles song "Nowhere Man" which sold for \$455,500 (2003) and Elvis Presley's 1942 Martin D-18 acoustic guitar, sold for £99,000 (1993).