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Contact: Kate Swan kswan@christies.com 212.636.2680

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS ITS MOST IMPORTANT FALL SALE OF AMERICANA

**October Sale Highlighted by Recent Discoveries & Rare Treasures Including
The Fisher-Fox Family Pie Crust Tea Table**

*Important American Furniture, Folk Art and Prints
Including American Folk Art from the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia*
Christie's New York
October 3, 2007

New York - The October 3 sale of *American Furniture, Folk Art & Prints, Including American Folk Art from the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia* will present collectors its most important fall sale of Americana to date. Leading the selection of over 130 lots are three highly important examples of the very best in Philadelphia design of the mid-18th century. The sale features a number of highly important recent discoveries, many of which descended directly through the families for which they were made.

Leading the sale is a exceedingly important piecrust mahogany tea table, circa 1760, attributed to the "Garvan" carver (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000). This magnificent tea table is exceedingly rare and of great historical importance. It survives in a remarkable state of preservation, the base with its old surfaces darkened over the years, and its feet with the original casters. Previously undocumented, and never out of the prominent Philadelphia family for which it was first commissioned, this table stands as one of the most important discoveries in recent years. The master craftsman credited with the design of this table is considered the most accomplished carver working in Philadelphia in the 1750's and early 1760's and is known for a boldness and vigor in his carving. His identity undiscovered, he is known solely by the body of surviving furniture bearing his distinctive hand; the present lot illustrates the carver's later work and the full mastery of his craft in its highly sculptural aesthetic. Related tea tables with carving attributed to the Garvan carver include five known examples, among them an early example currently in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The current example's esteemed design, execution, family history and condition combine to present collectors with one of the greatest survivals of colonial American craftsmanship.

Also of historical importance is a grand, richly carved open armchair, one of a renowned set of chairs attributed to the preeminent cabinetmaker Thomas Affleck and believed to have been made for John Penn, the last colonial governor of Pennsylvania (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Conceived on a grand scale, richly carved in the latest fashion and surviving with its old surface, this open armchair is an absolute tour de force of eighteenth-century Philadelphia craftsmanship and a recent discovery that has been in the same family for generations. The original set was dispersed among prominent Philadelphia families in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, and this chair, along with one other, is distinguished by its direct descent in the family of Ebenezer Hazard (1744-1817), America's first Postmaster-General and an avid historian of the founding of the nation.

From a direct descendant of the original owner comes a matching Queen Anne maple high chest and dressing table, circa 1740-1760 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Regionally expressive and with a Bucks County provenance, these two pieces are a remarkable survival of Philadelphia *en suite* furniture from the eighteenth century.

A rare and important survival of Providence cabinetmaking is a superbly crafted Chippendale mahogany desk-and-bookcase, circa 1785 (estimate: \$180,000-350,000). Descending in the family for which it was made, its significance is enhanced by its attribution to John Carlile, Jr. – one of Providence's most accomplished cabinetmakers working in the late eighteenth century.

Also of note is a Queen Anne Cherrywood desk-on-frame, 1785-1800 (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Surviving with its old finish and descending directly along the male lines of the original family through eight generations, this desk-on-frame illustrates the creative ingenuity of rural New England cabinetmakers working in the eighteenth century. Visually striking, this desk's use of cherrywood and separate base frame indicate it was made along the Connecticut River Valley, where such forms were favored toward the end of the century. This desk was originally owned by Jonathan Eno (1739-1813), a prosperous and educated member of his community of Simsbury, Connecticut. His house – which still stands today – served as a tavern that played host to parties from both sides of the Revolutionary War. The desk remained in the same house until the twentieth century when it was passed down to Jonathan's great-grandson, Chauncey Hart Eno (1849-1926). Since then, the desk descended in the Eno family and until its consignment remained in Simsbury, less than three miles from the house in which it first stood.

Leading the selection of American Folk Art are a number of works from the famed Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia, a museum that has long served as a steward of the premier collection of Philadelphia city history with a collection of nearly 100,000 items. The pieces offered on the 3rd are examples outside the mission of the museum, with no Philadelphia provenance. Proceeds from the sale will be used for direct care of the museum's collection. Among the many highlights are a series of trade figures once part of the well-known Haffenreffer Collection and include a number of figures attributed to or associated with the workshop of Samuel Robb, one of the most well-known and highly successful carvers of the late 19th century. Of particular note is a carved and paint-decorated figure of "Jack Tar" circa 1890 (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$100,000-150,000). A number of weathervanes will also be offered, included a molded copper and paint-decorated "Liberty Goddess" weathervane, circa 1850, as well as a gilt molded zinc and copper galloping horse weathervane, circa 1860, each valued at \$60,000-90,000.

Auction: *Important American Furniture, Folk Art and Prints* October 3
 Including American Folk Art from the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at 20 Rockefeller Plaza September 29 –October 3

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