

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S

Contact: Hannah Schmidt +44 (0) 207 389 2964

hschmidt@christies.com

DEALING IN EXCELLENCE: A CELEBRATION OF HOTSPUR & JEREMY AT CHRISTIE'S IN NOVEMBER



**Dealing in Excellence: A Celebration of Hotspur & Jeremy at Christie's in November
Thursday, 20 November at 10.30 am.**

London – Christie's are proud to announce *Dealing in Excellence: A Celebration of Hotspur & Jeremy* on Thursday, 20 November 2008. Two of the greatest names in the Furniture business, they have decided to auction their stock and continue as consultants. Both are family firms founded in the 1920s and 40s whose galleries became a destination for quality and excellence in furniture and objects, principally dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries. This sale will present international collectors and institutions with an opportunity to acquire both superb English Furniture, for which these firms are renowned, and spectacular European works. Combining timeless beauty, history and tradition this sale celebrates not only the elegance of the past but also the inspiration that exceptional 18th and 19th century furniture and works of art can bring to contemporary living. The highlight of the sale is *The Cusworth Suite*, a magnificent set of eight mahogany chairs, *circa* 1755-65, with their original needlework covers (estimate: £500,000-800,000), *detail illustrated above left*.

The 200 lots comprise chandeliers, candelabra, ormolu by Matthew Boulton and classic English carved mahogany from both 18th and 19th centuries, as well as Oriental lacquer & Japanned pieces. With estimates ranging from £2,000 to £500,000 the sale as whole is expected to realise £4 million.

Patronised by the most discerning of collectors and Institutions ranging from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, Hotspur & Jeremy are British institutions in themselves. Founded in 1924, *Hotspur* is owned by Robin Kern, the third generation of his family to run the gallery which has been members of the British Antique Dealers' Association since 1932 and founding members of the Grosvenor House Antique Dealers' Fair in 1934. *Jeremy*, established in 1946 Geoffrey Hill MBE, is owned and run by his sons, brothers Michael and John Hill and has provided two past presidents of B.A.D.A..

"It is a great honour for Christie's to have been asked to organise this sale. Both firms stand for the highest levels of excellence in Furniture dealing: values which Christie's respects and appreciates. This is exemplified by the objects we have been asked to catalogue for this celebration of two profoundly British, yet uniquely international firms. Although the galleries will close, fortunately both Robin Kern of Hotspur, and brothers Michael & John Hill of Jeremy will remain central figures in the international furniture world through their decision to continue as consultants." **Rufus Bird, Director of Christie's Furniture, London.**

"18th Century English furniture has been my lifelong passion," explains Robin Kern of Hotspur. "As a dealer, it has been a privilege for me to buy things I like and sell them to people I like. Over fifty years of antique dealing has brought me close to good friends and neighbours Jeremy, with whom we share this sale of our stock and to Christie's, with their attention to detail and expertise which I am sure will serve us both well."

"Over the years, Jeremy have strived to focus our way of dealing and commit ourselves to buying top quality, rare, and authentic furniture, topographical pictures, and works of art over a wide spectrum," said John and Michael Hill of Jeremy. "We chose Christie's because of our long standing relationship with them over more than six decades."



Setting the tone of excellence for this unique sale, *The Cusworth Suite*, circa 1755-65 (estimate: £500,000-800,000), *illustrated left*, conforms to designs made fashionable in Thomas Chippendale's *Director*. The exquisite needlework, which is all original and in extraordinary condition, is derived from a ceiling pattern from the Temple of Apollo at Palmyra: both sources of inspiration

were published in London in the mid-1750s. A superb George III mahogany breakfront bookcase, circa 1765 (estimate: £250,000 - 400,000), *illustrated top centre page 1*, presents beautiful balance and line, with rich, refined carving, *detail illustrated right*.



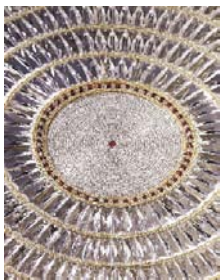
The work of another esteemed English craftsman, Matthew Boulton, is exemplified by the luxurious ormolu and Blue John 'Sphinx' perfume-vase, circa 1770 (estimate: £50,000 - 80,000), *detail illustrated page one top right and in full left*. A very similar vase, is in the Royal Collection, Buckingham Palace. The Blue John stone, from the famous Castleton mine in Derbyshire, perfectly offsets the warm tortoiseshell and the gold flecks in the aventurine glass. The ormolu mounts retain their original mercury gilding and are of the highest quality.



Japanned works are led by a captivating scarlet-red and gilt-Japanned bureau-cabinet, attributed to Giles Grendey, *circa* 1740 (estimate: £250,000 - 400,000), *illustrated left* and a dramatic black and gilt-Japanned and Chinese lacquer open china display-case, attributed to William and John Linnell, mid-18th century (estimate: £120,000 - 180,000). *Illustrated right.*



Elsewhere, an exceedingly rare early 18th century Queen Anne gilt-gesso lowboy (estimate: £100,000 – 200,000) is designed with restraint, yet is entirely gilded, whilst other pieces of luxurious furniture include a George IV ormolu-mounted brass and mother-of-pearl inlaid parcel-gilt satinwood, maple and marquetry octagonal centre table, in the manner of Morel and Seddon, *circa* 1830 (estimate: £50,000-80,000).



A 20th century European cut and moulded glass centre table, offers chic curiosity with a twist (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Made from thousands of rectangular chandelier pendants, drops, and glass beads, with central ruby and pale amber cut-glass, the table-top design comprises concentric rings with a central design of spiralling of beads, *detail illustrated left*. The irregular placement of the columns suggests that this table was designed to be placed in a specific area of an important interior.

Other lots designed to reflect and refract light and bring wonder and delight to the most sumptuous or minimalist of interiors, and include a Regency twelve-light cut-glass ormolu chandelier, early 19th century (estimate: £60,000 – 100,000), and a late George II giltwood mirror, mid-18th century (estimate: £100,000 – 150,000) *illustrated right*. The mirror was originally part of the famous collection at Wanstead House, Essex. The mirror was included in the sale of the houses' contents held in 1823.



This auction provides a treasure trove of exceptional craftsmanship and fascinating history. One lot of particular historical significance is a French giltwood *Couronnement*, attributed to Pierre-Gaston Brion, *circa* 1820 (estimate: £15,000 – 25,000) *illustrated left*. It depicts the Royal Arms of France encircled by the Orders of Saint-Michel and Saint-Esprit. A couronnement was executed to go over the sovereign's throne or the Royal bed. Pierre-Gaston Brion was working in the Tuileries Palace and was also instructed to furnish items for the *sacre* of King Charles X.

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors:

Sale: 20 November 2008 at 10.30am

Public Viewing dates

- Highlights preview: Duke Street Gallery, Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT between 3 and 7 November 2008
- Full sale view from 16 to 20 November 2008

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totaled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of

extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.