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**25 September 2003**

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**CHRISTIE'S AND HOK FINE ART TO SELL CONTENTS FROM A  
GREAT IRISH HOUSE THAT INSPIRED YEATS  
Furniture, Paintings and Works of Art from Lissadell House, County  
Sligo**

*Christie's Country House Sale in Association with HOK Fine Art  
25 November 2003, Lissadell House, County Sligo, Ireland*

*London – Christie's and HOK Fine Art announce the country house sale of furniture, paintings and works of art from Lissadell House, County Sligo in situ on 25 November 2003. Lissadell, situated in the north west of Ireland, was the childhood home of the celebrated Irish nationalist Constance Gore-Booth (Countess Makievicz) and her poet sister Eva and favourite haunt of W B Yeats. The Gore-Booth family recently sold the property to an Irish family and are now turning their focus to reducing their large collection of antiques and fine art. The auction will offer over 500 lots, and will be organised by Christie's newly formed Private House Sales and Collections department in association with HOK Fine Art. The sale is expected to fetch in the region of €800,000-1,200,000/£550,000-850,000.*

Commenting on the forthcoming sale, former owner of Lissadell, Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth says,  
*"Selling the surplus contents of Lissadell is a sad but pragmatic decision that we had to make. As we are no longer owners of the property we are not in a position to retain and store all the contents beyond December. As a result we are selling a number of the items that we cannot take with us. However, we were recently approached by the purchasers of the property regarding some of the core furniture contents and we naturally hope that these discussions will be fruitful and that some items will remain at Lissadell. A meeting is also planned with the Mayor of Sligo to discuss this issue. If any of these discussions are concluded in the near future then such items would be withdrawn from the sale. An auction on the premises would seem to offer a level playing field for*

***everyone with an interest in bidding and it has the advantage that it would deal, in a transparent way, with the important issue of value.”***

This auction will provide a great opportunity to acquire fine pieces of furniture, paintings and works of art from one of the most renowned Irish country houses, as well as everyday objects which have been accumulated by the family over the years which are both decorative and useful.

***Key items from the sale include original furnishings such as Dublin made furniture by Williams & Gibton, paintings, ceramics, glass and elements of the Arctic collection formed by the explorer Sir Henry Gore-Booth.***

Notable paintings from the principal rooms and Gallery, described by Yeats’ as a ‘*great sitting room as high as a church*’; include Sarah Purser’s portrait of the Gore-Booth sisters, Constance and Eva (estimate: €30,000-50,000/£21,000-36,000), together with portraits of their parents, Sir Henry and Lady Gore-Booth (estimate: €10,000-15,000/£7,000-10,000). Two landscape paintings by Casimir Markievicz, Constance’s husband who famously painted murals on the walls of the Dining room will be offered, along with a self-portrait.

*The Limerick Piper*, an oil on canvas by Joseph Patrick Haverty (estimate: €40,000-60,000/£30,000-40,000) is highly notable, as are the group of well documented 1830s ‘Grand Tour’ old master paintings, the highlight of which are two paintings by Luca Giordano (and studio), *The Judgement of Paris with Mercury and Cupid; and Pan and Syrinx*, oil on canvas in late 17<sup>th</sup> century Florentine frames decorated with masks (estimate: €40,000-60,000/£30,000-50,000 each) bought in Florence, in 1836, by Sir Robert Gore-Booth. Lissadell House was the first gas-lit country house in Ireland and a pair of William IV ormolu nine-light gasoliers, attributed to William Collins (estimate: €100,000-150,000/£70,000-100,000) (the largest from a group of six gasoliers of *circa* 1835), also feature. A further notable lot is an Irish George III mahogany chamber organ by Hull of Dublin (estimate: €12,000-18,000/£8,000-12,000), offered from the formal gallery of the house.

***The auction boasts a specially commissioned group of fully documented furniture by one of the greatest Irish makers, Williams & Gibton of Dublin, which was designed to harmonize with the restrained Grecian architecture and eccentric chimneypieces. From the Drawing Room a pair of Irish William IV mahogany bookcases (estimate: €30,000-50,000/£20,000-30,000) and from the Dining Room, an Irish William IV mahogany three pedestal dining table (estimate: €40,000-60,000/£25,000-40,000). Games tables, work tables, hall-stands, beds, wardrobes, library chairs, dining room chairs, mirrors, a firescreen and polescreens by Williams & Gibton will also be offered.***

A collection of objects from the Arctic journeys of the celebrated explorer Sir Henry Gore-Booth will also feature in the sale. Comprising approximately 40 lots, and estimated to fetch in the region of €30,000-50,000/£20,000-30,000, the grouping is highlighted by photographs, charts, instruments and models from the 1860s to 1890s. Artefacts from the Arctic collection also includes whaling equipment and natural history trophies, including mounted walrus tusks, whale skulls and even a stuffed brown bear.

The attics, out-houses storerooms, Gun Room, Butler's quarters, kitchens and sculleries will provide an ideal hunting ground to pick up unusual and highly useable objects with a unique history. Sporting memorabilia is particularly notable, in the form of the head of the first *Roe Deer Hibernica* ever recorded in Ireland (which Sir Henry introduced to Ireland in the 1870s), early fishing tackle and stuffed birds of prey. Wine Coolers, planters, a set of chef's knives, a Yeats' first edition book of poetry signed and dedicated to Eva (estimate: €8,000-12,000/£5,000-8,000) and copies of Eva's poetry books will also be offered, evoking the extraordinary charm and character of Lissadell.

*Images available on request*

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