

For Immediate Release

28 September 2004

Contact: *Alexandra Kindermann +44.20.7389 2962 Akindermann@christies.com*

LADIES & GENTLEMEN, TIME PLEASE!

Important Pocket- and Wristwatches

Geneva, 15 November 2004

Geneva - Christie's autumn watch sale will offer 350 watches and timepieces representing one of the largest sales ever brought together in Christie's Geneva auction history. With examples dating from the 18th century through to the 21st century and with estimates ranging from "without reserve" to SFr. 1,5 Million, Christie's presents a broad, colorful, tempting and timely sale in November. This exciting auction event will be the centre of attention for enthusiasts at all price levels from SFr.500 upwards and the fully illustrated catalogue will be available from mid-October.

PICK UP THE PERFECT PATEK PHILIPPE

Two stunning treasures, both probably unique and made in 1952 by the prestigious Geneva manufacturer Patek Philippe, highlight the sale.



The first is one of only two known stainless steel split second chronographs by Patek Philippe, reference 1436; this watch represents a major trophy for any collector who perhaps believes to have seen or owned everything in the watch field. This example is presented in stunning condition and is expected to fetch in excess of SFr.1,500,000

The second piece is an exquisite 8-day world-time desk timepiece. This piece has never been seen publicly, has never been exhibited or illustrated and is completely surprising to the

watch market. This desk timepiece is fitted with the ingenious world time mechanism invented by Louis Cottier. The dial, which depicts the map of Mexico, is surrounded by two rings, the inner is divided into 24 hours showing day and night hours. The other ring shows over 40 names of international cities. This set-up allows the user at all times to know the precise hour in each of these locations including day or night time. The lavishly decorated silver case is enameled and depicts the Northern Hemisphere of the globe. The piece is preserved in excellent condition and has an auction estimate of SFr.300,000-500,000.

Another Patek Philippe, but this time manufactured in 1941, is a notable, extremely fine and rare yellow gold chronograph wristwatch with register, reference 1506 (estimate: SFr. 250,000 - 350,000). Patek Philippe introduced this model in 1941, the same year when this example was manufactured. Its characteristics are the very unusual case with the elongated double-faceted lugs and its impressive diameter of 36mm. In over 30 years of public auctions no more than five examples have surfaced, all cased in either yellow gold, like the present watch, or in pink gold. This example here, never publicly shown or offered before, becomes now the sixth watch of this unusual reference.

ROCK AND ROLEX



A fine and rare Rolex self-winding triple calendar wristwatch with phases of the moon and star dial in 18k yellow gold, Ref. 6062, manufactured circa 1950, will also be offered.

(Estimate SFr.90,000-120,000). This model was the first and only Rolex Oyster reference to integrate indications of day, date, month and phases of the moon. The particularity of this watch is the dial with star-shaped numerals—which Italian collectors call “Stelline”. Last May, Christie’s Geneva offered the same model in pink gold, a rarity on the market, and was able to achieve SFr.465,600, a world record price for any Rolex ever sold at auction.

An impressive selection of pocketwatches with complications from the most famous watchmakers such as Vacheron Constantin, Audemars and Breguet will also be on offer.

This auction also includes an attractive group of lady's watches, some with lavishly decorated cases set with precious stones, by celebrated makers such as Cartier, A. Lange & Söhne and Patek Philippe.

Exhibition:

Montecarlo 23 September, at the Hotel Metropole
New York 7-11th October, Christie's Rockefeller Centre
Athens 18-20 October
Zurich 21-22 October, Hotel Baur au Lac Zürich
Hong Kong 29 October to 1st November, at the Marriott Hotel

Preview:

Geneva 13-15 November
Hotel Richemond, 8-10 rue Adhémar Fabri

Auction:

15 November at the Hotel Richemond

#

Images available on request
www.christies.com