

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK OFFERS PART THREE OF THE FORBE'S COLLECTION
OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**

**The Forbes Collection of American Historical Documents ~ Part Three
November 15, 2005**

New York – Following the highly successful sales of *The Forbes Collection of American Historical Documents, Part One and Two* staged in 2002, Christie's is pleased to offer *Part Three* on November 15. Primarily focused on Presidential letters and manuscripts, this third installment is expected to fetch between \$4 – \$6 million. The documents offered continue to stand as a testament to the late Malcolm Forbes' passion for collecting and his exquisite eye for important Americana.

One of the principal lots offered this season is the most significant document in Abraham Lincoln's presidency, the Emancipation Proclamation (Philadelphia: Frederick Leyboldt, June 6, 1864) (estimate: \$650,000 – \$850,000). The Proclamation has become one of the fundamental charters in American history, paving the way as it did for the 13th Amendment and the permanent abolition of slavery in the United States. The oversize document, signed by both President Lincoln and Secretary of State, William H. Seward, was printed in limited edition by two Philadelphia abolitionists who were dedicated to the cause of the Union. It is only one of approximately 15 surviving copies, most of which are in permanent public collections. In the last 40 years, only three copies have been offered at auction and the appearance of the Forbes copy will be a cause of great excitement in the community of manuscript collectors.

Along with Lincoln, many other major Civil War figures are represented in the sale, such as U. S. Grant, Robert E. Lee and most notably Julia Ward Howe, the poet and abolitionist who composed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The sale includes Howe's original draft of that work (including a discarded stanza), which she composed in the night and early dawn of 18-19 November 1861 following a tour of Union army camps (\$300,000 - \$500,000). Howe was inspired by a wish to make some kind of direct and meaningful contribution to the Union war effort. She succeeded famously.

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Once her verses were published in the *Atlantic Monthly* and widely distributed as sheet music, her stirring words became the anthem of the Union cause and remain to this day the best known American hymn.

Malcolm Forbes had a perceptive eye for personal and revealing documents and correspondence, and several examples are represented in the sale, such as a grief-stricken Robert E. Lee writing to his son about the death of his most trusted and valued subordinate, Stonewall Jackson (estimate: \$100,000 – \$150,000). Ulysses S. Grant's March 1865 letter to George Meade shows the tense state of the Union commander's mind on the eve of victory (estimate: \$18,000 – \$25,000). A 1967 letter from then governor Ronald Reagan has the future president explaining his decision to approve California's liberal abortion bill (estimate: \$3,000 - \$5,000). A particularly dramatic example is Theodore Roosevelt's typescript of a speech he gave in Milwaukee in 1912. Before he could deliver it, a deranged bartender shot him, the bullet piercing the speech text in T. R.'s vest pocket. Fortunately for Roosevelt, the bullet was deflected by the paper and a metal spectacle case, preventing a fatal wound, but it lodged in his chest nevertheless. Instead of rushing to the hospital, Roosevelt proceeded to the auditorium to give his address and while holding up the typed manuscript with the bullet hole, ad-libbed, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose!" (estimate: \$6,000 – \$9,000).

The sale also includes a map of the Pacific Ocean and Japan carried by the crew of the *Enola Gay* on their bomb mission to Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. The map shows the plane's flight path drawn from Tinian Island to Hiroshima and back (estimate: \$45,000 - \$75,000). Other highlights include drafts and reading copies of important speeches by John F. Kennedy and Dwight Eisenhower, such as Ike's address to the nation during the Suez crisis of October 1956, and Kennedy's speech about Nikita Khrushchev's visit in 1959 when he said, "It is better that we meet at the summit than at the brink." Beginning with King James II's appointment of Governor Edmund Andros and ending with President George H. W. Bush's signed announcement of the start of Operation Desert Storm in Iraq in 1991, Part Three of the Forbes Collection will be every bit as comprehensive and exciting as its predecessors.

Auction: The Forbes Collection of American Historical Documents ~ Part Three November 15
at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center November 11 - 14

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Images available on request
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