

For Immediate Release

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**MOTION PICTURE CAMERAS FROM THE SILENT SCREEN
AND BEYOND AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON**



*A three-strip Technicolor Camera
(first picture shows the 'blimp' used to keep the camera "studio quiet")
Estimate: £8,000-£12,000*

**Cameras, Photographs and Motion Picture Cameras
including the *Samuelson Brothers Collection of Motion Picture Cameras*
Wednesday 22nd November 2006, 10.30am
Christie's South Kensington
ON VIEW: From Saturday 18 November at 10am**

South Kensington - A fantastic selection of old motion picture cameras, in addition to still cameras, photographs and optical toys, will be offered in Christie's South Kensington's camera auction on Wednesday 22nd November. Charting the early history of film, these rare models from the dawn of cinema right up to the 1960s have recorded the performances of stars such as King Kong, Fay Wray, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins and William Holden as well as many major historical events. Estimates start from £100, and both the view and auction itself will be a great opportunity to learn about or purchase a piece of cinematic history.

Among the highlights in the sale are the Mitchell movie camera *no. 66* which was used as the "A" unit camera in RKO's classic 1933 film *King Kong* (estimate: £40,000-60,000), the only three-strip Technicolour camera in private hands (estimate £10,000-15,000); the first production Arriflex *no. 500* of 1938 (estimate: £2,000-3,000), and three Bell & Howell 2709 cameras used by BAFTA award winning animator Peter Tupys (estimate: £800-1,200 each).

The sale includes the Samuelson Brothers Collection, one of the world's most important collections of historic movie cameras. Comprising some 70 lots, the collection is expected to make up to £75,000, with estimates ranging from £100 to £12,000. The collection was assembled by David W. Samuelson in the mid-1960s, who along with his brothers, ran the well-known British firm of Samuelson Film Services in Cricklewood. Samuelsons was the world's largest supplier of motion picture cameras for hire and over the years built an extensive collection of motion picture cameras. These were made available on long-term loan to the British Film Institute and the collection formed a key part of the much missed Museum of the Moving Image on London's South Bank, from 1988 to 1999.

The proceeds of the Samuelson Brothers Collection will go towards funding a book about prominent producer and director of the silent movie era; "*Bertie*": *The life and Times of G.B. Samuelson*.

Highlights of the Samuelson Brothers collection include:

- A set of CinemaScope lenses used by Jack Hildyard for his Oscar-winning cinematography of *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957) (estimate; £150-£200)
- The Caméclair reputedly used by Jean Renoir (£3,000-£5,000)
- A 1906 Prestwich camera (estimate: £2,000-£3,000)
- A rare 1912 Moy Aerial camera, employing gyroscopic stabilisation (estimate: £4,000-£6,000)
- The first production Arriflex camera serial no. 500 - a mainstay of professional movie makers (estimate: £2,000-£3,000)
- A three-strip Technicolor camera complete with "blimp" - one of 30 made and the only example in private ownership in the world (estimate: £8,000-£12,000)

The Samuelson Brothers collection also encompasses early projection mechanisms, as well as equipment made for the amateur movie market such as a rare Schalie Collée 16mm camera (estimate: £100-£150), and the only known example of the first British made 16mm projector, the Thornton-Pickard 'Ruby' (estimate: £100-£150).

David W. Samuelson had a highly distinguished career in the motion picture industry. Working for ten years as a documentary cameraman for British Movietone News, Samuelson and his brother Sydney helped to film the 1953 Coronation in Westminster Abbey, London. He is an acknowledged expert on film technology and has written a number of film manuals and educational books and has been widely honoured by the international movie industry. In 2005 Samuelson won an Oscar for his joint work in developing the Louma Camera crane. Sydney Samuelson was Britain's first film commissioner and was knighted in 1995.

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Images available on request

Visit *Christie's* Web site at www.christies.com

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road

London SW7 3LD

Nearest Underground: South Kensington

Public Enquiries:

020 7930 6074 / www.christies.com

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9am – 7.30pm, Tuesday – Friday: 9am – 5pm

Weekends: 10am – 4pm

Notes to Editors:

Christie's South Kensington is the first international auction house in London to offer regular weekend auctions.

The camera department's annual sales comprise of over 2,000 lots and feature a wide variety of collectible and usable still and movie cameras, optical toys and viewers from the 1840s to the present. Held since 1972, these sales have established Christie's as the pre-eminent auction house in an increasingly popular collecting field.