

For Immediate Release

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Four outstanding collections to lead Modern First Editions sale at Christie's South Kensington this Autumn

Modern First Editions; Including the library of Lady Ottoline Morrell.

Wednesday 1 November 2006, 2pm

Christie's South Kensington

Christie's South Kensington's *Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts* sale on Wednesday 1 November 2006 will be lead by four superb collections; a delightful selection of works by Siegfried Sassoon (1886– 1967), several of which come from the author's own personal library, an enticing line-up of James Bond first editions by Ian Fleming (1908–1964), a magnificent collection of books by Sherlock Holmes creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930), many of them inscribed, and the library of acclaimed literary hostess Lady Ottoline Morrell (1873–1938).

The Library of Lady Ottoline Morrell:

This is by far the largest selection of books from Lady Ottoline's library to be offered for sale, and none of them has previously come up at auction. Comprising 178 lots, it offers a host of rare inscribed first editions given to her by the literary stars of the day. Between 1915 and 1928, she and husband Liberal MP Philip Morrell hosted literary salons at their home Garsington Manor in Oxford. T.S. Eliot, Aldous Huxley, D.H. Lawrence and Siegfried Sassoon were regular visitors, as were leading members of the Bloomsbury Group, including Lytton Strachey, John Maynard Keynes, Virginia Woolf and Bertrand Russell, with whom Lady Ottoline had a passionate love affair. Highlights include:

- A first edition of Virginia Woolf's masterpiece, *To the Lighthouse* (1925), inscribed by Woolf to Lady Ottoline (estimate: £5,000-8,000), and with extensive notes by Morrell.
- Her subscriber's copy of Woolf's first major novel, *Jacob's Room* (1922), inscribed by Woolf, (estimate: £3,000-5,000).
- A rare first edition of T.S. Eliot's masterpiece, *The Wasteland*, 1923, (estimate: £1,500-2,000).
- An inscribed copy of Graham Greene's first book, and only poetry collection, *Babbling April*, 1925 (estimate: £4,000-6,000), which commemorated a visit the young author made to Garsington Manor in 1930.
- A copy of Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Tales*, 1903 which was signed by the author when Lady Ottoline visited him in Dorchester on September 1924, as recorded in a note written by her on the front free endpaper (estimate: £800-1,200).

- Lady Ottoline was passionate about dance and the sale includes her copy of *David Bomberg's* exquisite pamphlet *Russian Ballet*, 1919, containing six of the artist's very distinctive angular designs (estimate: £2,000-3,000).

Garsington Manor was a haven for conscientious objectors during the Great War, and the collection includes important editions by such notable war poets as Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. Highlights in this section include Owen's posthumously-published *Poems*, 1920 (estimate: £1,000-1,500) and a collection of six watercolours executed by Sassoon in the months following his breakdown through battle fatigue in 1917. Dark and violent, they reflect his troubled state of mind at the time. They are provisionally estimated at £3,000-5,000.

Siegfried Sassoon:

The sale features approximately thirty lots of poetry books, prose and inscribed limited editions which chart the colourful and changeable life of Siegfried Sassoon. Sassoon became known amongst other things, as a vehement anti-war poet, despite being a decorated war hero. Born into the wealthy and talented Sassoon family, Siegfried inherited the Sassoon creative talents. Despite being encouraged to study law at Cambridge, he left after a year with no degree and went on to become a celebrated writer. Highlights of the collection include:

- Sassoon's home library catalogue from when he was just 16 (estimate: £1,500-2,500).
- A first edition of *Sonnets*, 1909, one of only 50 printed (estimate: £700-1,000) which includes many corrections and annotations, and shows Sassoon amusingly signing himself as "Lord Simon Snooks".
- *Melodies*, 1912, first edition, one of only 35 copies printed, inscribed by Sassoon to socialist Edward Carpenter. A first edition and one of only 35 copies printed. Sassoon greatly admired Edward Carpenter, who was one of the most outspoken campaigners for homosexual rights. Copies of this book are extremely rare, only two copies having been offered/recorded at auction since 1975 before (estimate: £700-1,000).
- A first edition of *The Old Huntsman and Other Poems*, 1917, in the rare dustjacket (estimate: £250-400). This was Sassoon's first major collection of poetry and only 740 were printed (estimate: £250-400).
- *Rupert Brooke's Death and Burial*, first edition, one of 300 copies, reflecting Sassoon's feelings on the war, and the loss of his friend and fellow poet Rupert Brooke (estimate: £200-300).
- A first edition presentation copy of *The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon*, 1919, inscribed to his lover Stephen Tennant, one of 2,000 printed (estimate: £300-500).
- A presentation copy of *Lenten Illuminations and Sight Sufficient*, 1959, inscribed to John Betjeman, with a covering letter (estimate: £600-800).

Ian Fleming

A fine selection of early Ian Fleming novels about James Bond also feature in the sale (estimates start at £400-600). Of particular interest is a copy of the 1963 novel, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, (estimate: £3,000-5,000), inscribed by the author to his typist: "To Margaret Anderson who wrote it! From Ian Fleming". Offered with the book are fifteen typed letters sent to Anderson by Ian Fleming's secretary, Beryl Griffie-Williams, one of which refers to the author's famous gold-plated typewriter (which was sold at Christie's South Kensington in May 1995 for £50,000). "Actually it is a beastly machine," notes Griffie-Williams, "and quite inadequate for the work I have to do on it ... Mr Fleming says the type is too small for him to see!"

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Highlights of this section include:

- A first issue first book edition of the 'Sherlock Holmes' novel, *The Sign of Four*, 1890 (estimate: £1,500-2,500)
- A first edition, first issue, of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, 1892, in the original pale blue decorated cloth (£1,500-2,500)
- A first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1902, inscribed and with a letter by Sir Arthur's son, Adrian Conan Doyle (1,500-2,000)
- A first edition in the original cloth of Doyle's three-volume historical novel, *The White Company*, 1891 (£2,000-3,000)
- Inscribed first editions of *Micah Clarke*, 1889 (£700-1,000), *Uncle Bernac*, 1897 (£700-1,000), *The Coming of the Fairies*, 1922 (£1,000-1,500) and *The Land of Mist*, 1926 (£500-800).

Other highlights of the sale are a copy of *Winston Churchill's* only novel, *Savrola* (1900), inscribed on board the S.S. Etruria in February 1901 (£3,000-5,000), and a large paper copy of *Evelyn Waugh's* historical novel, *Helena*, 1950, (estimate: £5,000-8,000) humorously inscribed to its dedicatee, *Penelope Betjeman* (wife of John) as 'Penelope Stabularia' (the Latin surname a reference to the passion for horses which Penelope shared with the novel's subject).

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Images available on request

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Opening Hours:

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

Weekends: 10am – 4pm

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

Notes for Editors:

Christie's South Kensington holds eight sales of Books and Manuscripts throughout the year. There are four general book sales, two Travel and Natural History, one Modern Firsts/Children's/Private Press and one single owner sale. The sales often deal in manuscripts of historical interest. To date, the department's top selling lot is *Hours of Guyot Il Le Peley*, an illuminated manuscript on vellem, which realised £299,200 in June 2005. Book and Manuscript sales also include first edition copies of books. A letter from Winston Churchill (dated 1899) sold for £77,675 in 2003, setting a new world record for any Churchill letter. The market is also open to magazine collections and book-related memorabilia such as Ian Fleming's typewriter on which he wrote *Casino Royale* (sold for £56,250 in 1995). In recent months the Books and Manuscripts department started holding Sunday sales at South Kensington.