

For Immediate Release

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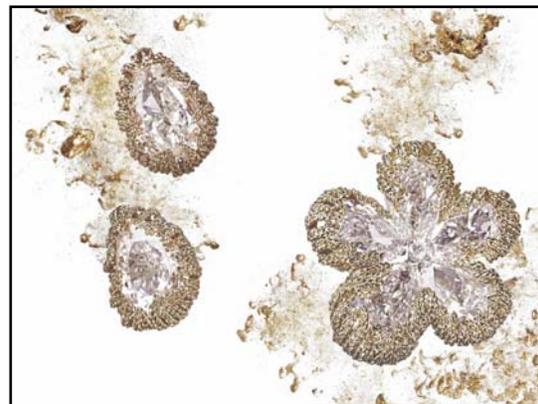
Contact: Carine Decroi +33 1 40 76 85 88 cdecroi@christies.com
Alexandra Kindermann +44-20-7389-2289 akindermann@christies.com

PRINCELY AND PRICELESS

TWO COLLECTIONS LEAD CHRISTIE'S GENEVA JEWELS SALE IN NOVEMBER



Princess Katharina Henckel von Donnersmarck
A magnificent emerald and
diamond necklace, circa 1900
Estimate: Sfr 1,250,000-2,000,000



Princess Cecil Amelia von Fürstenberg
A gold and diamond 'cage' brooch'
by Van Cleef & Arpels
Estimate: Sfr 440,000-625,000
A pair of 'cage' earclips by Van Cleef & Arpels
Estimate: Sfr 375,000-625,000

MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

Thursday 15 November 2007

Geneva – This November, Christie's Geneva will hold an exceptional jewellery auction and the department is proud to offer the exquisite jewels of two private princely collections: **Princess Katharina Henckel von Donnersmarck** (1862-1929) and **Princess Cecil Amelia von Fürstenberg** (1919-2006) as well as a stunning array of jewellery individually selected by Christie's international specialists at the Geneva Magnificent Jewels sale on Thursday 15 November 2007. Featuring 396 lots, the sale will also comprise several other collections, a selection of jewels entitled Russian Elegance, cutting-edge contemporary designs and superb gems of the rarest type and highest quality. The sale is expected to realise in excess of Sfr 53 million.

PRINCESS KATHARINA HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK



The Private Collection of Princess Katharina Henckel von Donnersmarck, the elegant and aristocratic Russian born wife of “the wealthiest man in Germany” Guido Henckel von Donnersmarck (1830-1916) is led by a magnificent antique emerald and diamond necklace, created circa 1900 (estimate: Sfr 1,250,000-2,000,000/\$1,000,000-1,500,000). Not only belonging to the Princess, the superb emeralds once belonged to the first Countess Henckel von Donnersmarck known as ‘la Paiva’ whose jewellery purchases at Boucheron come to life for the first time in 125 years through the research made for this sale. ‘La Paiva’ was the most charming and glamorous courtesans of the 19th Century and was noted at the time for routinely wearing two million francs of pearls, diamonds and precious gems.

In addition to the inherited treasure trove, Princess Katharina formed an outstanding collection of pearls gems and diamonds in her own right. Of these the highlight is a superb and antique natural pearl and diamond drop mounted by Chaumet, who also designed at the time other jewels in the sale for the Princess. The pearl is one the largest drop-shaped and historic pearls to come to auction (estimate: Sfr.375,000 - 500,000/ \$320,000-420,000).

PRINCESS CECIL AMELIA VON FÜRSTENBERG

H.S.H Princess Cecil Amelia von Fürstenberg was the devoted wife of Prince Tassilo von Fürstenberg. (Her mother's family were the founders of the company that would become Texaco, and her father, Exxon. Princess von Fürstenberg was a talented and celebrated hostess, an art collector and a renowned philanthropist.

Her vivacious personality was epitomized by her fabulous jewels which reveal a woman with a strong sense of style and exquisite taste. Her collection shows an almost unwavering patronage of the outstanding maison Van Cleef & Arpels in the 1960s. The highlight is a unique diamond cage brooch designed by Van Cleef & Arpels to open out to reveal the beauty of the rare Golconda diamond within (estimate: Sfr 440,000-625,000 / \$375,000-530,000).



THE LARGEST RED DIAMOND EVER OFFERED AT AUCTION



As the rarest color among diamonds, this exceptional stone is extremely special: the octagonal-shaped fancy purplish red diamond weighing 2.26 carats is also the largest ever red diamond offered at auction (estimation: Sfr 1.500.000–1.900.000/ \$1.200.000–1.500.000).

Christie's achieved the world record price per carat for a red diamond weighing 'only' 0.95 carats in 1987.

RUSSIAN ELEGANCE

An exceptional selection of Russian jewellery will be led by two historic jewels which belonged to the Imperial Jewellery Collection, started by Peter the Great, which passed through the hands of such monarchs as Catherine the Great and Tsar Nicholas II.

Of these, a fabulous pair of amethyst and diamond girandole ear pendants, circa 1760, and set with Siberian amethysts, were described in the State catalogue as '*evidently among the first procured in the Ural, about 1750-1760*'. It had been Peter the Great who had patriotically instigated the search for such precious gems in Russia, with the deep, rich purple of Siberian amethysts being amongst the most highly prized (estimate: Sfr.200,000–250,000/\$ 180,000 – 200,000).



The jewels in this fascinating section of Russian elegance evoke all the buzzwords of the world of Russian jewellery.

SUPERLATIVE JEWELS

This exquisite selection of 8 pieces of jewellery is a one-of-a-kind event featuring an array of exceptional gemstones, beautiful signed pieces and highly original designs. Each specialist has selected a 'coup de Coeur' piece which represents, for each expert personally, the rarest and finest and most valuable qualities seen in jewels and gemstones (separate press release available).

Auction:

Magnificent Jewels

Thursday 15 November 2007 at 10.30 am, 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Exhibition:

Hôtel des Bergues – Four Seasons Geneva: 10 to 14 November 2007

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Images available upon request

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