

For Immediate Release

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NOWHERE MAN SPOTTED AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK

*Entertainment Memorabilia sale offers handwritten lyrics
to one of the Beatles' most famous songs*

Entertainment Memorabilia

November 18, 2003

New York – On November 18, Christie's New York will again be visited by the spirits of many Hollywood and Rock and Roll icons when their personal mementos will come up for sale. A choice group of items that shaped 20th century popular culture will be offered including John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to one of the Beatles' most poignant songs, Nowhere Man, the 1942 'Best Director' Academy Award won by Michael Curtiz for Casablanca, a 1923 letter handwritten by Walt Disney and never-before-seen 8-millimeter color film footage of Marilyn Monroe singing at JFK's 1962 Madison Square Garden birthday celebration.

Beatles

Still part of the stratosphere as far as Rock and Roll heroes are concerned, the Beatles continue to fascinate collectors all over the English-speaking worlds. John Lennon, who promoted peace and love in both his music and personal life, is one of those human beings who still have a positive impact on the world, though he died almost twenty-four years ago. Memorabilia associated with him and The Beatles always creates excitement at auction. In that sense, the sale offers something like the Holy Grail: Lennon's handwritten lyrics to Nowhere Man (estimate: \$80,000-100,000), arguably one of the Beatles' most moving songs. Written in 1965, Nowhere Man opened the doors for the Beatles to address more serious and poignant issues in their music and Lennon himself said it was autobiographical in nature. Although Lennon now seems to be the antithesis to a 'Nowhere Man', knowing that this was part of his make-up adds another dimension to his already complex legend.

Casablanca

This masterful movie addressing one of life's most ardent themes – two men vying for the love of one woman – has flown straight into the orbit of film legends. It shows Humphrey Bogart in his first appearance as a romantic lead, perfectly balanced by the incomparable Ingrid Bergman in the role of his former lover. The creation of the smoky, exotic Casablanca atmosphere dense with mystery and magic was in itself a pure masterpiece since the entire movie, except for the opening airport scene, was shot at Warner Bros. studios in Burbank, California. And director Michael Curtiz was being creative to the extreme; he famously edited the script as the movie was being shot and he left everyone in the dark as to what the final ending would be. Casablanca was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won three of them: Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Director; the last of which comes directly from the Estate of Michael Curtiz and will be offered as Lot 32 (estimate: \$200,000–300,000).

Walt Disney

'Disney' means dreams coming true and the originator of this fairy-tale-factory had a life that was often just as fantastical as his animated films. As a 21-year-old, Walt Disney created 'Alice's Wonderland', the film that was to be the prototype for his first successful silent film series. Broke and living on loans, Disney was 'saved' by the distributor Margaret J. Winkler who spotted his 'Alice' movie and ordered twelve versions on the condition that he use the same girl who played the original Alice. Disney immediately wrote to the mother of Virginia Davis, the four-year-old personification of Alice, proposing to bring her to Hollywood. This letter, written on personalized stationery purchased with a \$10 loan eight days after Winkler's offer, confirms his proposal to Mrs. Davis to make her daughter Virginia his first star. This is believed to be one of the earliest and most significant letters handwritten by Disney, marking the start of one of America's most astonishing careers (estimate: \$15,000–17,000).

Marilyn Monroe

The magic name in the popular arts world: Marilyn Monroe. It reverberates with sensuality and success, sadness and mystery. The sale presents never-before-seen 8 mm film footage shot during President Kennedy's Madison Square Garden birthday celebration on May 19, 1962 by one of the musicians in Ella Fitzgerald's band (estimate: \$6,000–8,000). Although brief, the footage offers a totally unknown view of one of MM's most memorable performances; singing 'Happy Birthday' to the President. Additional MM material includes a black wool dress she wore when she announced her divorce from Joe DiMaggio, a coffee table she used in her New York apartment and a group of 32 original black and white 35 mm negatives and their associated copyrights.

Auction: Entertainment Memorabilia

November 18 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

November 13 - 17

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Images available on request

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