

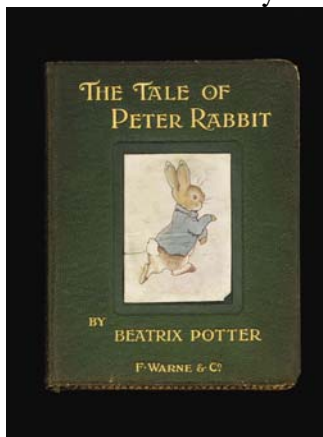
For Immediate Release

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RARE BEATRIX POTTER BOOK TO BE AUCTIONED AT CHRISTIE'S IN NOVEMBER

Rare and Previously Unrecorded First Trade Edition of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*



Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts, including Travel and Natural History
16 November 2004 at 10.30am and 2.00pm

South Kensington – A rare and previously unrecorded first trade edition of Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, which was one of only two copies specially bound for the author, will be offered in Christie's *Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts, including Travel and Natural History* sale on 16 November 2004. Estimated to fetch between £20,000 to 30,000, the book was given by the author to a young Eileen Brougham, grand-daughter of the 3rd Baron Brougham and Vaux, in 1919 and has remained in the same family ever since. The other copy was presented to a young Edward VIII and its whereabouts is currently unknown.

"This highly important presentation copy of one of the world's best-loved children's classics is a very exciting find. It is the first recorded appearance of this specially-bound copy of Peter Rabbit which has until now, remained hidden away in a private family collection for over 80 years. The other copy which was given to the future Edward VIII is not in the Royal collection and we have not been able to trace its whereabouts. This copy is quite possibly unique," commented Nicholas Worskett, Christie's South Kensington Book Department.

The unique first edition is inscribed: "To 'Princess' Eileen on Peace Day Brougham Aug 23, 1919. from the authoress – with love from Peter Rabbit and Beatrix Potter. This volume is one of two, which were specially bound. The other copy was presented – 15 years ago – to a little Prince sometime known as 'David'."

At the time of Peace Day, Beatrix Potter was a successful local farmer living at Castle Farm in Sawrey and was familiar to the Brougham children as a regular tea-time visitor. The Brougham Peace Day was part of the nationwide celebrations at the end of the First World War. The Brougham festivities were led by the seven year-old Eileen Brougham who had been nominated "Princess" for the day.

The 'little Prince sometime known as 'David' was the future Edward VIII. There existed a strong link between the Brougham family and royalty. During Victorian times Brougham Hall had become known as 'the Windsor of the North'. It played host to the future King George V on numerous occasions as well as King Edward VII.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Viewing Dates:

Sunday 14 November 1.00pm-4.00pm
Monday 15 November 9.00am-7.30pm
Tuesday 16 November 9.00am-10.00am

Auction:

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Christie's worldwide Book sales totalled \$80 million in 2000 and established us as the undisputed market leader in the field. In 2005, Christie will hold 8 book sales at South Kensington including a new Sunday Book Sale on 27 February and 9 book sales at King Street. Christie's holds world auction records in virtually every category, including Early Printed Books; English & Continental Literature; Exploration & Travel Art; Manuscripts & Archives; Medieval & Renaissance Manuscripts; Natural History; Americana and Science & Medicine. Christie's also handles highly collectable books and manuscripts, ranging from children's books, livres d'artistes, sporting books, atlases and maps, to fine bindings, modern printing and first editions.