

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO SELL THE JOSEPHINE BONAPARTE EMPRESS OF FRANCE BREGUET "SOUSCRIPTION" WATCH

IMPORTANT POCKET WATCHES AND WRISTWATCHES

Monday 12 November 2006

Hotel des Bergues - Four Seasons Geneva

Geneva - Christie's Watch Department, the undisputed international market leader, presents an exceptional selection of over 430 watches, signed by the world's most famous watchmakers, spanning over four decades of fine horology. This auction is the best and most exquisite ever organized by Christie's and stands out by the variety and quality of timepieces offered. For the most part fresh to the market and offered by private collectors, this superb auction is expected to fetch in excess of SFr. 14 million (US \$ 12 million).

WATCH OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE MADE FOR JOSÉPHINE BONAPARTE, EMPRESS OF FRANCE



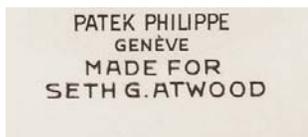
The "Josephine Bonaparte" Breguet is certainly the most historical watch to come to the market in years. Josephine married Napoleon Bonaparte in 1796 and bought the watch herself in 1800. She later offered this jewel to her daughter, Hortense de Beauharnais, Queen of Holland and wife of Napoleon's brother Louis Bonaparte. It is a magnificent masterpiece by the world's greatest watch maker - Abraham Louis Breguet. The gold case is richly decorated with blue enamel and diamonds and features the crowned *H* on the reverse (estimate: SFr.200,000-400,000/ \$ 170.000-330,000).

The records from the workbooks regarding this piece are numerous and reveal for example that the case of the present watch was made by Tavernier at a cost of 150 francs. The "Medaillon Bonaparte" was valued at 88 francs, the diamonds at 700 francs. Shortly after 1804, the medaillon was also changed and the addition of a crown reflected the new imperial rank acquired by the family once Napoleon had been crowned.

FORMERLY THE PROPERTY OF SETH G. ATWOOD: OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT AUCTION

"What then is time? If no one asks me, I know; if someone asks me to explain, I know not"

Seth G. Atwood, quoting 4th century theologian St. Augustine



Christie's is proud to offer an extremely important 18K gold double-dialled watch with secular "true" perpetual calendar and year indication, manufactured in 1972 by **Patek Philippe** (Sfr.500,000-1,000,000). This masterpiece was formerly in the collection of Seth G. Atwood. Made for him by special order by the master watchmakers of Patek Philippe in Geneva, this watch is the epitome for Seth G. Atwood's passion for the mysteries of time. One of only two known, the second example of this model for the Stern family, owners of Patek Philippe, is now permanently on exhibit at the prestigious Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva. Never been offered at auction before, it is doubtlessly one of the rarest opportunities for any connoisseur to acquire one of Patek Philippe's most important, elegant and exclusive creations of the 20th century.

This watch made in 1972 is, for esthetical reasons, fitted with two dials and was the first time that Patek Philippe incorporated a secular perpetual calendar into one of their creations.

Seth G. Atwood was an industrialist, financier, public servant and collector. Already at a young age, Seth G. Atwood was fascinated by the concept of time and the continuous struggling with it. What was to become one of the world's most important Horological Collection begun around 1968 with his first acquisition, a quarter repeater made in the late 17th century by the celebrated Thomas Tompion.

The collection gradually grew and became within a few years one of the world's most elaborate and complete watch collections ever assembled. More and more visitors requested a visit and increasingly more space than his home could provide was needed, resulting in the foundation of the Time Museum in Rockford's "Clock Tower Inn" in 1970. It is an horological paradise where watch aficionados from all over the world would meet and share their enthusiasm for the over 3.000 items collected, the most complete collection in the world displaying the history of humankind's efforts to measure time with pieces extraordinary in quality and mostly one of a kind.

PATEK PHILIPPE: THE ONLY STAINLESS STEEL REFERENCE 1591 EVER MADE AND ONE OF ONLY TWO EXAMPLES OF THIS MODEL KNOWN TO EXIST TO DATE

The present watch is a mile-stone in the history of complicated wristwatches by Patek Philippe and must be considered one of the finest and rarest trophies for the discerning collector to appear in public to date.

This extremely important and unique stainless steel water-resistant perpetual calendar wristwatch, ref. 1591, was manufactured in 1944 by **Patek Philippe** and its pre-auction estimate is Sfr.800,000 to 1,400,000.

This watch is believed to be the only stainless steel reference 1591 ever to be made and one of only two examples of this model known to exist to date; the second example is cased in yellow gold. Reference 1591 was the first centre seconds perpetual calendar wristwatch with water-resistant case ever made by Patek Philippe, rendering it the direct predecessor of the celebrated reference 2438/1.



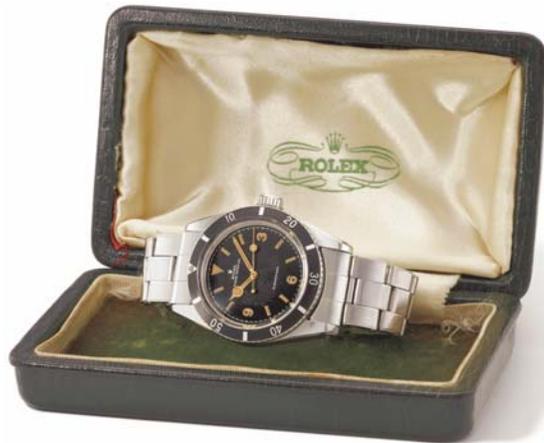
This model was unknown to literature and the international watch market until 1996 when first offered at auction. According to tradition, this watch was the pride of a Maharaja who enjoyed wearing the robust timepiece occasionally when playing polo. It was then given as a present to the man in charge of organizing the Maharaja's wedding. This information is supported by the fact that the watch was retailed by Favre-Leuba, Patek Philippe's agent for India at the time of its manufacture.

‘COUP DE COEUR’ SELECTION

A personal selection by Aurel Bacs, Christie's International Co-Head of the Watch Department, of the ‘coup de coeur’ which represent the rarest, the finest and most valuable qualities found in watches. This array of superb examples comprises the following watches:

The **Patek Philippe**, reference 1463, is the most attractive reference. Its desirability resides in the exclusive combination of a stainless steel case and a two-tone silvered dial
"This stainless steel water-resistant model, designed circa 1955, stands out for the combination of a complex mechanism encased in modest materials. Discrete, as well as fascinating, this watch is the witness of a Latin American bygone era; this specific model is signed by Freccero who was the representative of Patek Philippe in Montevideo, Uruguay" says Aurel Bacs. This model is in extremely good condition and will be auctioned for the first time (estimate: Sfr. 200,000-400,000).

Rolex set the base of an unequalled success story with the iconic **Submariner** model. In the movie Dr. No and Goldfinger, Sean Connery alias James Bond is wearing a Rolex Submariner. The present **Oyster Perpetual Submariner, reference 6200** is believed to be the very first model of this celebrated series (Sfr.50.000-80.000). *"This reference is undoubtedly one of the rarest and most sought-after examples of the Submariner series ever offered at auction. Launched in 1954, very few examples were made. This model was the first to offer water-resistance. Depth-rated to 200 meters it was promoted as the ‘diver’s friend’"* notes Aurel Bacs.



Lastly, the **Speedmaster Broad Arrow** model, manufactured in 1958 by **Omega**, is one of the very few original models (estimate: Sfr.15.000-25.000).

"This model was a widely used instrument. Very few examples have come to us over time and the present watch will generate great enthusiasm among collectors especially for its remarkable state of conservation." adds the Christie's specialist. Originally destined ‘for men who reckon time in second’ i.e automobile racers, athletes, engineers and scientists, this model is also the first one to conquer space - later known as the ‘Moon Watch’.

Auction:

Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches

Monday 12 November 2007 at 10 am, 2 pm and 5 pm

Exhibition:

Hôtel des Bergues – Four Seasons Geneva: 10 to 11 November 2007

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Images available upon request

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