

For Immediate Release

Monday 14 November 2005

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**BERRYMAN'S BEAR – THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE
TEDDY BEAR AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON**

Teddy Bears

13 December 2005, 2pm

Christie's South Kensington

South Kensington - The star of this Christmas's Teddy Bear sale at Christie's South Kensington is a rare American Teddy Bear, thought to have been modeled from the famous cartoon bear that sparked the name "Teddy Bear" at the start of the last century.

"Bevo" bear belonged to Clifford Berryman, the American political cartoonist who inspired the term "Teddy Bear". After a bad day's hunting in late 1902, a bear cub was presented to President Roosevelt in order that he may shoot it and claim to have had some success from the day. When he refused, believing it to be unsporting, Clifford Berryman produced a cartoon which appeared in the Washington Post on 14 November 1902. Consequently a toy bear was produced which quickly became known as "Teddy's Bear" and the rest is history. Berryman then christened his cartoon bear "Bevo" and he starred in many subsequent cartoons.

The bear to be auctioned this Christmas is believed to have been Berryman's own "Bevo". Dating from circa 1908, and in superb condition, he has never been played with. He comes with three other friends; Woody Tiger, a small white Steiff teddy and a Steiff elephant (the group is estimated at: £10,000-15,000).

Also of interest is a selection of related material, including a postcard from Berryman to his daughter Florence, in which he pretends to be Bevo. On the front, he has drawn an ink drawing of Bevo saying "*Gee, I wish Florence was here!*" On the reverse; "*Dearest Floss, Mother was the happiest little person in Sharon this morning, all because you invested a 2 cent stamp on her. Never did a government investment pay such dividends in the history of this great Republic. Do it some more ! AND DO IT NOW! Sincerely yours B.V.D. (Bevo) July 31, 1919.*"

This is the perfect opportunity for teddy bear enthusiasts to own a unique and important piece of teddy bear and American political history.

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

Notes for Editors:

Opening hours at Christie's South Kensington:

- Monday 9am – 7.30pm
- Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm

- Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays

Public Auction:

Teddy Bears

Tuesday 13 December, 2pm

85 Old Brompton Road

London SW7 3LD

Public Enquiries: 020 7930 6074

Viewing Times:

Saturday 10 December 10am – 4pm

Sunday 11 December 10am – 4pm

Monday 12 December 9am – 7.30pm

Tuesday 13 December 9am – 12noon

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

Christie's is the market leader in Teddy Bear sales and is the only auction house to hold sales devoted entirely to Teddy Bears. Since Christie's Teddy Bear sales were introduced 12 years ago, the demand for bears has increased exponentially in view of the never-ending popularity of these soft toys. Christie's set the world auction record for a Teddy Bear when "Teddy Girl," a cinnamon Steiff teddy bear sold for £110,000 in December 1994. Christie's holds two sales a year in London devoted to teddy bears and soft toys.