



CHRISTIE'S

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CONCORDE - A HIGH-FLYING FINALE

*Christie's Paris
Saturday 15th November 2003*

Paris – This afternoon's Concorde sale at Christie's in Paris was an astonishing success. Bidders from around the world, determined to secure their own piece of history from this incredible aircraft, pushed prices towards the stratosphere. A fitting tribute to an aviation legend, the sale totalled €3,298,033 (£2,298,729/\$3,878,487), was 100% sold and featured 219 lots relating to Concorde, including airframe parts, interior fittings and instruments, photographs and souvenirs.

The iconic nose cone, 3.5 metres long (lot 26), was the leading lot of the sale. Fetching an amazing €470,250 (£327,764/\$553,014), the cone was bought by an anonymous buyer in the saleroom. Symbolising the raw, almost mythical, power of the plane, two Olympus 593 engines (lots 61 & 63) also proved exceptional highlights, realizing €151,250 (£105,421/\$553,014) and €117,500 (£81,898/\$138,180) respectively. Other top lots included the cabin machmeter (lot 48) which sold for €94,000 (£65,518/\$110,544), and the door (lot 14) which provided access to the flying control chassis which realized €99,875 (£69,613/\$117,453).

Proceeds from the auction will go to the Air France Foundation, which, since its creation in 1992, has supported various children's causes.

“The Air France Foundation looks after children who are often neglected and find themselves in a desperate situation. The excellent results of this sale will help us support

many children and will allow us to provide them with renewed hope and confidence,” said Gérard Orizet, President of Air France Foundation.

François Curiel, Chairman of Christie’s Europe and sale auctioneer added, “Art collectors and Concorde enthusiasts made their way to Christie’s today and furiously bid for 219 lots of Concorde memorabilia. More than 1,300 people in three satellite-linked salerooms joined 45 telephone bidders connected to 36 countries and over 2,000 commission bidders to produce an extraordinary result, with the proceeds going to the Air France Foundation. The fascinating white bird which made us all dream has once again worked its magic.”

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*Images available on request
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