

For Immediate Release

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**MONUMENTAL ROMAN BRONZE FIGURE LEADS CHRISTIE'S SALES
OF ANTIQUITIES**

Antiquities

December 11, 2003

New York – Christie's sales of Antiquities on December 11 at Rockefeller Center will be lead by a monumental Roman bronze figure of an emperor (estimate on request), the first of its kind ever to appear at auction. Dating from the late Antonine or Severan period, circa late 2nd-early 3rd century A.D., this is one of only very few over-lifesized bronzes surviving from antiquity. Although most bronzes of this size and period are institutionally owned, this superb bronze has been in various private collections since the 1960's. It has a long exhibition history, having been seen at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from 1967-1970, the Indianapolis Museum of Art from 1976-1980, the Minneapolis Institute of Art from 1976-1980, and the Rutgers University Art Gallery from 1981 to 1985. It has also been the focus of scholarly interest, having been published by several prominent experts of ancient art.

This important bronze must once have been part of a large-scale dedication to the Imperial family. The sculptural type of the youthful standing male was developed by the Greeks in the 5th century B.C. During the Roman Imperial period, the same type was adopted to represent gods, heroes, victors and more significantly, the emperors. Whether an older emperor was meant, or a younger one, the idealizing body type was the same; only the portrait head and the accompanying inscription on the statue base would serve to identify which ruler was depicted.

The emperor is shown stepping forward on his right leg. The right arm was originally raised, perhaps once holding a scepter or spear, while the left arm was lowered, perhaps also once holding an attribute. The muscular figure is exquisitely modeled, with careful attention to the fine contours of the body, complete with extensive naturalistic treatment of minute details. The piece stands over 71 inches in height.

<i>Auction:</i>	<i>Antiquities</i>	<i>December 11 at 10 a.m.</i>
	<i>Ancient Jewelry</i>	<i>December 11 at 2 p.m.</i>

<i>Viewing:</i>	<i>Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza</i>	<i>December 6 - 10</i>
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Images available on request
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