

## For Immediate Release

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## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES CELEBRATED AT CHRISTIE'S IN DECEMBER

December 2004

**South Kensington** – Evoking childhood memories for people of all ages is a wonderful selection of December sales at Christie's dedicated to original children's book illustrations, trains and teddy bears. From an original Beatrix Potter drawing of Benjamin Bunny to a Märklin train, the sales offer the chance to travel back in time to the innocence of childhood.

### Children's Book Illustrations

Since 1902 to the present day, Beatrix Potter has remained one of the world's most popular children's authors. The original Benjamin Bunny illustration (estimate: £25,000-35,000) offered in the *British and Continental Watercolours including Original Book Illustrations* on 1 December 2004 was painted by Beatrix Potter in the 1890s. At the time she worked for the greeting card firm Hildesheimer and the watercolour was originally painted for Christmas cards. In 1900, Potter privately published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and in 1902 when it was published by Frederick Warne and Co, it sold over 50,000 copies in its first year of distribution. Many works followed including *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny* whose cheeky attitude, boundless energy and mischievous scrapes resonates with meaning and memory across generations of readers.

Harking back to a more innocent time is a rare collection of original children's book illustrations from the Collection of James Murray, the former Art Editor at publishing firm Blackie & Son in Glasgow. The collection features 101 illustrations offered in 12 lots with estimates ranging from £600 to £1500. Spanning from 1900 through to 1950, it includes drawings by Charles Robinson, one of the most popular Edwardian artists at the time whose illustrations featured in *Aesop's Fables* and *The Big Book of Nursery Rhymes*.

### Trains Galore and Märklin

A remarkable single-owner collection of *Märklin* trains leads this final South Kensington sale for 2004 on 20 December. Highlights include goodies such as a beautiful Swiss-outline heavy freight Crocodile electric locomotive (estimate: £12,000-15,000), an LNER Cock o' the North locomotive, designed for runs to Aberdeen (estimate: £10,000-15,000) as well as a beautifully presented *Märklin* station from 1905 (estimate: £4,000-6,000). This wonderful collection hails from Switzerland, and is expected to fetch up to £200,000.

The rest of the sale boasts a wide selection of trains from around the globe, from as far afield as New Zealand rarities to a rare United Dairies Milk Tank Wagon, made by *Hornby*, in excellent condition and still in its original box, which was discovered close by in London. The sale is also notable for its range of trains from different periods: there is a very rare *Carette* captive track trainset on offer, (estimate: £7,000-10,000) dating from the early 1880s, along with many more recent trains. A particular highlight of the sale is an extremely rare *Märklin* model of Churchbury station (estimate: £2,500-3,500), which was specially made for the UK market in 1905. With prices to suit all budgets and 450 lots to choose from, these trains are every boy's Christmas dream come true.

**Teddy Bears (Separate press release available on request)**

'Will', a fine early *Steiff* teddy bear who belonged to one of the world's leading teddy bear collectors (estimate in excess of £20,000), stars in Christie's sale of *Teddy Bears* on 1 December 2004. There are a number of *Steiff* teddy bears included in this impressive sale, many of them rare and unusual, and all of them looking for good homes; ideal for Christmas presents or an addition to a collection. From rare and wonderful teddy bears to rabbits, birds and Mickey Mouse, there is something for everyone's Christmas wish-list.

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*Images available on request*

Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

Notes to Editors:

Christie's South Kensington December 2004 Calendar of Sales:

Wednesday, 1 December	Arts and Crafts
Wednesday, 1 December	Teddy Bears
Wednesday, 1 December	British and Continental Watercolours including Original Illustrations
Wednesday, 1 December	Selected Silver and Plate
Thursday, 2 December	Twentieth Century British Art
Thursday, 2 December	19 <sup>th</sup> Century European Art
Thursday, 2 December	Moorcroft
Friday, 3 December	Jewellery, Unredeemed Pawn Brokers' Pledges
Tuesday, 7 December	Portrait Miniatures, Objects of Vertu, Icons and Russian Silver
Tuesday, 7 December	The Contents of the Workshops of Mr Christopher Cook
Wednesday, 8 December	Furniture and Decorative Objects
Wednesday, 8 December	Fine Jewellery
Thursday, 9 December	Asian Decorative Arts
Friday, 10 December	Old Master Pictures and Drawings
Monday, 13 December	Fine Wines and Vintage Port
Tuesday, 14 December	Film and Entertainment
Wednesday, 15 December	British and Continental Ceramics
Wednesday, 15 December	Furniture and Decorative Objects
Wednesday, 15 December	Watches
Thursday, 16 December	Clocks and Barometers
Monday, 20 December	Trains Galore and Märklin