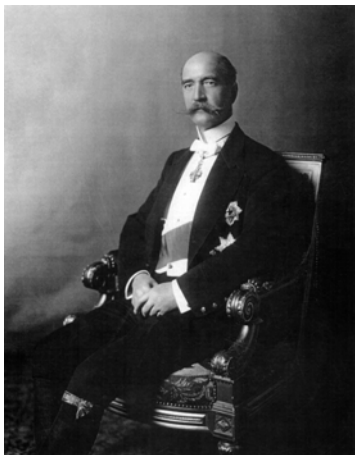


For Immediate Release

30 November 2006

Contact: Christina Freyberg 020 7752 3120 cfreyberg@christies.com
Alexandra Kindermann 020 7389 2289 akindermann@christies.com

**PROPERTY FORMERLY IN THE COLLECTION OF KING GEORGE I OF
THE HELLENES TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN JANUARY 2007**



**Property Formerly in the Collection of King George I of the Hellenes
Christie's King Street
Wednesday, 24 & Thursday, 25 January 2007**

London - Christie's is pleased to announce that silver, Fabergé and works of art from the Collection of King George I of the Hellenes will be offered for sale in London on 24 and 25 January 2007. This is the third major Royal Auction to be held at Christie's in the last twelve months, and follows on from the enormously popular and successful sales of property from HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon and HRH The Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester held in 2006 at Christie's London.

The Collection of King George I, comprising over 850 lots, with estimates ranging from £100 to £250,000, will feature an outstanding selection of silver and Fabergé together with furniture, works of art, Chinese jade and porcelain, and paintings. The collection has been in storage for many years and a decision has been taken to sell this property at auction thereby enabling a new generation to enjoy these works.

King George I of the Hellenes (1845-1913) was related to many of the Crown Heads of Europe. He was brother to Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII of Great Britain and Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, wife of Tsar Alexander III of Russia, while his elder brother was King Frederik VIII of Denmark. He was elected King by the National Assembly of Greece in 1863. In 1867 he married Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinova of Russia (1851-1926), niece of Tsar Alexander II of Russia, and together they were to have eight children.

The works of art to be sold in January are a fitting testimony to the taste of this cosmopolitan King, much coming from his beloved private country house Tatoï. It was in



1871 that King George I bought with his own money from Denmark, the pine wooded estate of Tatoï at the foot of Mount Parnitha, 15 miles outside Athens. Here, he built himself a new handsome house, copied from an English-style cottage near Peterhof. He laid out new roads and grew his own grapes so that he could produce his own wine, Chateau Décélie. Tatoï

quickly became a family retreat, playing host to many royal visitors including King Edward VII and his sister, Princess Victoria, Empress Frederick of Germany.

Silver

The sale is lead by a superb collection of English, Danish, Russian, French, Italian, Portuguese and German silver dating from the 18th to the early 20th century. Comprising around 600 lots that were either inherited, given to or acquired by the King, the collection demonstrates the many Royal dynastic relations of the Greek Royal Family. The sale offers collectors the chance to acquire fascinating items with estimates from £100 to £250,000.

A magnificent pair of large silver pilgrim flasks by Robert Garrard, dated 1866 (estimate: £80,000-120,000), arguably the finest royal silver examples to come to the market, lead this section of the sale. They were a silver wedding gift to King Christian IX of Denmark and the inscription reads “*From Albert Edward Prince of Wales. Alexandra Princess of Wales. And George King of the Hellenes 26th May 1867.*” They were later inherited by King George I. Similar examples were given as gifts between other members of the Royal Families of Europe, such as the pair of pilgrim flasks now in the Kremlin, given by the Royal Families of Greece and Denmark to Tsar Alexander III of Russia on his marriage to Tsarina Maria Feodorovna in 1866.



Also by Garrard is King George I's silver banqueting service. This is being sold in various lots and includes a number of unusual basket-shaped double salt-cellars (estimates from £500-1,500). A further English silver highlight is a pair of Edward VII silver novelty pepperettes, London 1906 (estimate: £800-1,200), each realistically modelled as a Borzoi dog.

Danish silver features prominently in the sale and includes an important and striking pair of silver soup tureens by Michelsen, Copenhagen, dated 1892 (estimate: £40,000-60,000). These were a silver wedding anniversary gift to King George I and his wife Queen Olga from various European Royal family members. Their names were



inscribed on the stand to mark the occasion. Further Danish examples include a spectacular silver equestrian statuette of King Christian IX of Denmark by Michelsen, Copenhagen, 1888, modelled by Lauritz Jensen (estimate: £15,000-20,000) and a magnificent Danish Royal Banqueting Service consisting of 264 silver dinner plates, by Michelsen, Copenhagen, which will be sold in sets of twelve, each lot estimated at £4,000-6,000.



Among the Russian silver pieces offered is an important silver *bratina* and stand by Pavel Ovchinnikov, Moscow 1887 (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Engraved with the crowns of Greece and Russia, this was a silver jubilee gift to King George I and his wife Queen Olga in October 1888 from her fifth brother, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, his wife Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Queen Olga's sixth brother, Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich.

The collection also includes many French, Italian and German silver examples including a pair of decorative parcel-gilt vases and covers by Placide Poussielgue-Rusand, Paris, *circa* 1880 (estimate: £4,000-6,000). Another piece of silver with an interesting Royal provenance is a charming christening present of a Portuguese silver-gilt basin, Lisbon, *circa* 1750 with a Victorian silver ewer by Robert Hennell, London 1839 (estimate: £2,000-3,000), given by Queen Adelaide of Great Britain to Princess Victoria, eldest child of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and Prince Albert, later Empress Frederick of Germany.

While the collection contains many grand pieces intended for display the sale also includes wonderful examples of silver used every day in the King's residences. Highlights include tea-services, sauce boats, salt-cellars, entrée dishes and serving pieces, with estimates starting from £100.

Fabergé

Appropriately, given the close family links with Russia, the collection includes a wonderful selection of approximately 100 Fabergé works of art, with estimates ranging from £120 to £250,000. At the turn of the century, Fabergé's skill and craftsmanship was recognised by the Crown Heads of Europe, with many forming impressive collections. This collection shows the enormous range of Fabergé's work which includes an impressive clock, stylish boxes, jewelled animals alongside scent bottles and cigarette cases.

One of the highlights of the sale is a striking two colour gold-mounted Fabergé nephrite clock, 1908-1917 (estimate: £150,000-250,000). Another wonderful Fabergé piece is a highly decorative enamel and two colour gold egg bonbonnière (£30,000-50,000). Fabergé's exquisite jewelled boxes also feature, including an oval jewelled gold and guilloché enamel pill-box, 1896-1908 (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and a jewelled guilloché enamelled three-colour gold-mounted bowenite box, *circa* 1896 (estimate: £12,000-18,000).



A wide selection of Fabergé's enchanting miniature animals ranging from hens and dogs to rabbits, mice and kangaroos are also included in the collection. Highlights here include a captivating jewelled nephrite model of a frog, *circa* 1890 (estimate: £20,000-30,000), a jewelled bowenite model of a chameleon, *circa* 1890 (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and a bowenite model of a Japanese sparrow, *circa* 1890 (estimate: £10,000-12,000), inspired by a netsuke in Fabergé's private collection, all exquisitely carved.

Furniture, Works of Art and Chinese Jade

A fascinating glimpse of how Tatoi would have been decorated in the late 19th century can be seen from the diverse range of furniture, works of art, ceramics, and Chinese jade and ceramics offered that will appeal to buyers in all price ranges. Furniture highlights include a pair of French Empire-revival ormolu-mounted rosewood console tables, 19th century (estimate: £8,000-12,000), stamped underneath with King George I's crown and a suite of Royal giltwood furniture including console tables, sofas, chairs and stools (estimates from: £800 to £5,000). Other pieces offered range from a set of four magnificent Napoleon III ormolu floor-standing eighteen light candelabra, *circa* 1870 (estimate: £10,000-20,000) to a Greek giltwood centre table by S. Magiasis, Athens (estimate: £5,000-8,000).

A good selection of jade features and includes a pair of Chinese white jade 'Phoenix' vases and covers, early 19th century (estimate: £40,000-60,000), a Chinese pale celadon jade carving of a monkey, Qianlong (1736-95) (estimate: £6,000-10,000) together with a Chinese creamy soapstone model of a Lohan, 17th/18th century (estimate: £3,000-5,000). Among the Chinese examples is a striking pair of Chinese mallet shaped 'dragon' vases, Jiaqing (1796-1820) (estimate: £15,000-£25,000).

Paintings

An interesting selection of Old Masters, 19th century European and English paintings also feature. Among the highlights are Jan van Bijlert's charming *Portrait of a Young Boy* (estimate: £50,000-80,000), Peder Mork Monsted's *Morgaard – A Stream in a Wooded Glade*, 1888 (estimate: £40,000-60,000), a classical English landscape by John Nost Sartorius entitled *Full cry, in an extensive landscape with a country house beyond, traditionally identified as Buckland House* (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and from the Studio of Veronese *A musical allegory: three ladies playing a viola da gamba, a lute and a viola da braccio, with a putto holding a shawm* (estimate: £15,000-25,000).

#

Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com

A selection of images is available on request

Public Viewing Dates:

Sunday, 21 January 2007	11.00am – 5.00pm
Monday, 22 January 2007	9.00am – 4.30pm
Tuesday 23 January 2007	9.00am – 8.00pm
Wednesday, 24 January 2007	9.00am – 4.30pm (limited viewing)

Auction: Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT

- Wednesday, 24 January 2007 at 10.30am
- Thursday, 25 January 2007 at 10.30am

Catalogues

+44 (0)20 7389 2820

General Public Enquiries: +44 (0) 20 7389 2820

Notes to Editors

King George I of the Hellenes (1845-1913)

Born in Copenhagen, the second son of King Christian IX and Queen Louise of Denmark, George I, King of the Hellenes was elected by the National Assembly of Greece in 1863. In 1863, following the abdication of the childless King Otto of Greece, the seventeen year old, then titled Prince William of Denmark, was selected to become constitutional ruler of Greece, an independent state established in 1832. He learned of his possible destiny while at the Danish Naval Academy when he read about it in a newspaper wrapped around his sardines.

Astute and straightforward, King George I of the Hellenes quickly commanded the respect and affection of the Greek people. As his third son, Prince Nicholas recalled: “He lived, he worked and he died for Greece.” In 1867, he married Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinova of Russia (1851-1926), niece of Tsar Alexander II of Russia. She arrived in Greece aged sixteen, with her childhood dolls in her suitcase. Together they were to have eight children.

A delightfully informal family in private, the King and Queen had a palace in Athens, where court balls were held in the vast ballroom, which in turn served as an indoor arena through which the family roller-skated or cycled around the pillars. They also lived at Mon Repos on Corfu, but above all they loved Tatoï, a pine wooded estate 15 miles outside Athens that King George I had acquired in 1871 with his own money brought from Denmark. According to his son Prince Nicholas, *“For my parents, as well as for us children, Tatoï represented our real home – the place where everyone was free to do as he liked.”*

King George I’s fifty year reign, the longest in modern Greek history, was to mark a period of stability for Greece and witnessed a wide extension of her frontiers. Britain handed over the Ionian Islands as part of an agreement on his accession, with Greece later adding the Plains of Thessaly in 1881 followed by Crete and a large area of Macedonia including the important city and port of Salonika in 1912-13, following the Balkan war with Turkey. Tragically, the King was assassinated in Salonika in March 1913 in the fiftieth year of his reign. He was buried at Tatoï.