

For Immediate Release

11 December 2003

Contact: *Rik Pike* *020.7752.3120* *rpike@christies.com*

GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES

*Model Racing Cars, Aero and other Engines from the Collection of the late Miguel de Rancougne
Tuesday 20 January 2004 at 12 noon*



A selection of highlights from the late Miguel de Rancougne Collection

South Kensington – Christie's is delighted to announce the sale of the most impressive European collection of model engines and racing cars ever assembled. The late Miguel de Rancougne Collection goes under the hammer at Christie's South Kensington on Tuesday 20 January and comprises over 1,000 model aero, automobile, marine and stationary engines, over 130 pylon (tethered) racing cars, and other mechanical models.

Offering collectors a remarkable opportunity to snap up pieces from an extraordinary collection, the sale is expected to realize in excess of £150,000 and features 350 lots. With many of the lots aesthetically-pleasing in their own right, interest will come from across the globe, with art-collectors expected to express a keen interest in bidding on some wonderful engineering works of art.

Miguel de Rancougne, a dedicated enthusiast for all forms of quality model engineering, lived in Paris and was Director General of Saint Gobian, one of the leading glass manufacturers in Europe, at the time of his death in March 2003. Whilst travelling the world because of work commitments, he obtained models in many countries over many years.

Notable highlights include a rare and important inverted V-twin spark ignition aero engine by Godefroy of Paris, circa 1910. The oldest engine in the auction, this famous Vee twin Monosoupape engine made the first-ever powered model aircraft flight in Europe, covering 471 metres.

The collection also includes an outstanding variety of spark ignition and glow plug engines, from an 18 cylinder two row radial aero engine through multi-cylinder horizontally opposed types, to V-12 car engines, single cylinder engines in a multitude of different makes and types, as well as diesel and jet engines.

The car section comprises examples of tethered, rail track, sprint and static models, mostly from the immediate post-war period, with great names such as Dooling, Miller, Bugatti, ERA, McCoy and Champion (estimates from £50 to £5,000).

Car highlights include a fine AC Cobra model by Joseph Krasznai finished in deep blue (estimate: £1,200-1,500) and an Atwood Speedway Champion front wheel drive sprint racing car (estimate: £500-800).

###

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