

For Immediate Release

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TREASURES FROM TWO COUNTRY HOUSES: ENCOMBE AND LA CHASSE TO BE SOLD AT CHRISTIE'S IN JANUARY 2007



Lady Charlotte, Lady Katherine and Lady Augusta Scott, 1839
Henry Perronet Briggs, R.A. (estimate: £25,000-35,000)



An extremely rare Anglo-Indian ivory and
penwork davenport desk, *circa* 1860-80
(estimate: £50,000-80,000)

Property from Encombe, Dorset, and La Chasse, Jersey

Christie's South Kensington

23 January 2007

London – The London House Sale department starts the New Year in grand style with the sale of the contents from two fascinating private country-house collections, Encombe in Dorset and La Chasse in Jersey, which are to be offered in one sale at Christie's South Kensington on 23 January 2007. Encombe was the family seat of the Earls of Eldon and many of the lots offered come with a fascinating history and provenance including memorabilia relating to John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon, who was Lord Chancellor to both George III and George IV. While La Chasse in Jersey was home to the late Mrs Monica Black who created an elegant residence full of many remarkable works of art. This sale offers collectors and history-lovers alike the opportunity to acquire superb and individual items from two unique properties, with estimates ranging from £100 to £80,000.

Set in a secluded valley on the Dorset coast, Encombe was enjoyed by successive generations of the Scott family. The estate was acquired by John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon

(1751-1838), Lord Chancellor in William Pitt the Elder's Government. A valued counsellor to both George III and George IV, he was closely involved in the latter's divorce proceedings against Caroline of Brunswick.

Following his retirement from the woolsack in 1827, Lord Eldon wrote to his wife of "the very great expense of the various improvements" undertaken at Encombe and a selection of pictures, furniture, sculpture and silver from this period are included in the sale. A bronze statue of George IV modelled as Caesar attributed to Rundell, Bridge and Rundell (estimate: £7,000-10,000) and labelled as being purchased by Lord Eldon after he retired from office, is a highlight. While a sumptuous velvet ceremonial Lord Chancellor's bourse (estimate: £3,000-5,000) is a vivid reminder of Lord Eldon's role in Government. The sale also includes portraits of the 1st Earl together with a wax bust of him by David Morison (estimate: £200-300).

A selection of paintings, watercolours and prints from the house are included in the sale. Among the family pictures is a charming group portrait of Eldon's three great grandchildren, painted in 1839 by Henry Perronet Briggs, R.A. (estimate: £25,000-35,000). Here the children are gathered around the favourite family German spaniel called "Pincher", who was added to the portrait in the same year by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A.. Further pictures offered include a striking portrait of the 3rd Earl of Eldon by George Richmond (estimate: £7,000-10,000) and a charming watercolour of a golden eagle in mid-flight by Josef Wolf (estimate: £1,000-1,500) along with an amusing collection of early 19th century political caricatures (estimate: £1,500-2,500).

Among the furniture highlights is a decorative suite of Etrusian furniture which includes a pair of demi-lune games tables (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and a set of twelve decorated dining chairs (estimate: £15,000-25,000), along with a magnificent oak banqueting hall sideboard (estimate: £2,000-3,000) given by the Eldon Estate tenants on the occasion of the 3rd Earl's marriage. A wide range of works of art are also offered together with a selection of ceramics and glass, including a Meissen model of an eagle, 19th century (estimate: £2,000-3,000) and a collection of black top hats (estimate: £150-250).

La Chasse was home to the late Mrs Monica Black, one of Jersey's most elegant residents. Her house contained a charming combination of old family furniture and pictures with lighter pieces acquired for the house. The undoubted star of her collection is an extremely rare 19th century Anglo-Indian ivory-veneered Davenport desk which is signed by Yendapilly Veraslingum, the Vizagapatam craftsman who made it, *circa* 1860-90 (estimate: £50,000-80,000). A further Vizagapatam ivory-veneered bureau on a Regency stand, late 18th/early 19th century (estimate: £6,000-9,000) is also offered.

Mrs Black's interest in 18th and early 19th century France is represented by an Empire *scagliola* and giltwood centre table attributed to Jacob (estimate: £15,000-25,000), as well as by an exciting selection of French decorative prints. Superb 18th century English furniture also features in the collection including a George II mahogany side table, *circa* 1750 (estimate: £40,000-60,000), a George II giltwood mirror, *circa* 1755 (estimate: £12,000-18,000), together with an Irish George II gilt gesso and giltwood console table, *circa* 1750 (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

The Black collection also boasts an atmospheric painting by George Elgar Hicks entitled *Waiting for the Boats*, 1864 (estimate: £30,000-50,000) and a charming pair of mid-18th century Chinese export reverse-painted mirror pictures (estimate: £6,000-9,000). Additional works of art include a pair of Paris porcelain cylindrical cache-pots, 19th century (estimate: £500-800) and a collection of silver-mounted, mother-of-pearl shell dishes (estimate: £300-500).

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

A selection of images is available on request

Public Viewing Dates:

Saturday, 20 January 2007 at 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday, 21 January 2007 at 10.00am – 4.00pm

Monday, 22 January 2007 at 9.00am – 7.30pm

Auction: Christie's London, 85 South Kensington, SW7 3LD

- Tuesday, 23 January 2007 at 10.30am

Christie's South Kensington

Christie's South Kensington is open seven days a week with monthly sales for the home on Sundays. Throughout 2006, Christie's South Kensington will hold 22 weeks of Interior Sales which bundle together all the regular home furnishing auctions over one week in the single easy, magazine-style catalogue.

The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. Prices range from £200 to over £20,000, with the average price at just under £1,000. For those contemplating selling, Christie's expertise is also available 7 days a week, free of charge, at the Valuation Counter to advise you on the current market value for your works of art.

Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, fashion, jewellery and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection.