

For Immediate Release

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One of the most important cars in motor-racing history to be sold at Christie's in Paris, February 2007

1939 AUTO UNION D-TYPE

Estimate: Available on request

Retromobile

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 February 2007

Paris – The highlight of *Christie's International Motor Cars* next sale on 17 February 2007 will be an extremely rare 1939 Auto Union D-Type. Thought to be one of only two in existence, the car will lead the sale at *Rétromobile 2007*, one of Europe's most prestigious exhibitions for automotive collectors.

One of the most important cars in motor-racing history, it won the 1939 Belgrade grand prix at the hands of Nuvolari, and today enjoys a near-mythical status due to its rarity. It is expected to break current records and become the most expensive car ever to be sold at auction.

The car designed by Porsche was revolutionary; the driver was placed in front of the engine and the fuel tanks, and all four wheels benefited from independent suspension. Never ceasing to win Grands Prix across Europe, the model evolved throughout the years into this, the D-Type.

The arrival of war interrupted this famous era of racing, and the cars were lost or destroyed during the hostilities that followed. It is therefore even more extraordinary that this car should survive.

Taken to Russia for its technology to be studied, it was here its disassembled parts were discovered, completely apart from the body and waiting to be crushed. Sent from Russia to England, the body was recreated by Rod Jolley Coachbuilding to the exact dimensions of the original, upon these original underpinnings. The car was fully restored by Crosthwaite and Gardiner, and was tested for

the first time by Dick Crosthwaite at the Nürburgring in October 1994. It has been meticulously preserved in the same state ever since.

This may be considered to be among the most important cars ever to pass under the gavel; Christie's is extremely proud to have been entrusted with its sale.

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Images available upon request or contact www.christies.com

Notes to editors:

Current world record for a car at auction was is 1931 Bugatti Type 41 Royale Sports Coupe - £5.5m Sold at Christie's 19th November 1987.

Christie's International Motor Cars was established in 1972, and holds regular sales in Paris, Monterey and New York. Christie's specialists are more than happy to provide free no obligation valuations to anyone thinking of selling their collector's car.

Public Auction: Friday 16 and Saturday 17 February, Retromobile, Paris

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