Auction Update: Property from The Collection of the Late John Appleby at Christie’s

Since July 2010, Christie’s has been privileged to offer over 1,500 pictures from The Collection of the Late John Appleby. Comprising several masterpieces, as well as a number of portraits, landscapes and topographical works illustrating the collector’s passion for the Channel Islands, the latest installment was offered for sale in Christie’s South Kensington’s Interiors sale on Tuesday, 1 March 2011. A total of 188 works from the highly-regarded Channel Islands dealer and collector were sold in the Interiors sale, exceeding expectations to realise £258,400.

Nick Martineau, Director, specialist and auctioneer comments, “The interest in John Appleby’s collection has continued to grow and grow since Christie’s first presented highlights to the public in July 2010. John Appleby was a popular local figure in the Channel Islands, and his discerning taste and eye clearly resonates with fellow collectors and decorators alike. The Interiors sale demonstrated in particular the continued appeal of views by Channel Islands artists and views of The Channel Islands, which all achieved excellent prices.”

The collection as a whole has so far realized more than £3.2 million with over 300 further works from the collection yet to be offered (these will feature in further Christie’s auctions in 2011). The enormous hoard of over 2,000 pictures had a pre-sale estimate of £2-3 million, which has already been surpassed.

Highlights from the Collection of the late John Appleby sold in the 1 March Interiors sale included:

- Philip John Ouless (St. Helier 1817-1885), Gaspé Basin, Gulf of St Lawrence, Quebec (1868), Canada realized £32,450 (estimate: £15,000-25,000)

- Philip John Ouless (St. Helier 1817-1885), Markwell of Jersey. Thomas Le Dain, Master. 2nd May 1833. From Jersey to Chaleur, Long W47°10’ Lat N40°32” sold for £9,375 (estimate: £4,000-6,000)

- And the fourth highest price in the sale was paid for Gouliet Channel, Sark by William Arthur Toplis (Sheffield 1875-1914 Sark) which was bought by the Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery for £7,500 – the second highest price ever paid for a work by the artist at auction (estimate: £800-1,200)

An affable connoisseur, John Appleby’s passionate enthusiasm was infectious. He moved to Jersey, in the Channel Islands during the 1970s and traded as a dealer, primarily in watercolours and topographical views of Jersey and the Channel Islands. In 1973, Appleby’s enthusiasm to secure a portrait of the Jersey born actress Lillie Langtry by Sir John Everett Millais, led him to considerably overrun his commission bid from The States of Jersey in order to secure it. Luckily they honoured his bid and it is now one of the jewels of the museum collection. He became an expert in the field keen on sharing his extensive knowledge with fellow collectors and decorators alike.
knowledge, and published several books on his specialist subject ranging from 'The Dictionary of Painters of the Channel Islands' to a biography of 'Paul Jacob Naftel', and 'Edmund Blampied - A Catalogue Raisonne'.

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High resolution images and further information regarding past lots from the Collection of the late John Appleby available upon request

Notes to Editors:

Christie’s Auction Highlights from the Collection of the Late John Appleby

- World record price achieved for a work by Philip John Ouless (St. Helier 1817-1885) at auction: View taken from under South Hill, St Helier, Jersey, 1868 sold for £57,650 / $92,932 / €65,663 on 4 November 2010, far exceeding the pre-sale estimate of £6,000-8,000. The work was bought by a Private Channel Islands collector.

- The first selection of works offered from the Collection were sold in Christie’s Old Masters Evening sale on 7 December 2010. The three works more than doubled their pre-sale estimate - Ubaldo Gandolfi (San Matteo della Decima, near Bologna 1728-1781 Ravenna), A sleeping legionary in a helmet sold for £373,250 / €566,594 / €449,766 (estimate: £40,000 - 60,000); Attributed to Tiziano Vecellio, called Titian (Pieve di Cadore c. 1488/90-1576 Venice), Portrait of a gentleman, half-length, in a fur mantle, holding gloves, his arm resting on a ledge sold for £289,250 / $439,082 / €348,546 (estimate: £200,000 - 300,000); and John Constable, R.A. (East Bergholt 1776-1837 London), View of Reading from the River, Oxfordshire sold for £181,250 / $275,138 / €218,406 (estimate: £70,000 - 100,000).

Collection Sales at Christie’s

Since its foundation in 1766, Christie’s has traditionally held the most significant and successful sales in this category. These sales have embraced all fields, tastes and artistic endeavours from the jewels of Madame du Barry in 1793 and the 40-day Stowe sale in 1848, to more recent auctions of property of Yves Saint Laurent, Cecil Beaton, Marilyn Monroe, Rudolph Nureyev, the Viennese Rothschilds, Hubert de Givenchy, Christopher Gibbs and five Royal auctions including property from the collection of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret. The magic of the objects, the styles of their owners and the romance of times past are intertwined in the sale of a single-owner collection. Over the past five years, Christie’s has led the market with over fifteen single owner sales each year. Collection sales are particularly appealing to buyers who are captivated by lovingly assembled collections often made over many decades or generations.

Christie’s South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie’s South Kensington is the busiest saleroom in the UK, annually holding over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots. The recently refurbished saleroom facilities and exhibition spaces provide one of the most accessible, well lit and welcoming sales arenas in the world, consistently attracting over 200,000 visitors a year. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside monthly Sunday sales of single-owner collections, and specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category. Every lot is beautifully illustrated in a large scale magazine-style catalogue and in an online e-catalogue. Christie’s South Kensington appeals to a worldwide audience – in 2009 bidders originated from over 50 countries, with around 20% of bidders taking part in auctions from the comfort of their own home or office, using Christie’s unique online bidding facility, Christie’s LIVETM.

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