

CHRISTIE'S

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PROPERTY FROM A DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS CHRISTIE'S SALES OF ANTIQUITIES AND OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

FEATURING A 2ND CENTURY A.D. MARBLE BUST OF MARCUS AURELIUS AND
A HIGH RENAISSANCE MASTERPIECE BY FRA BARTOLOMMEO

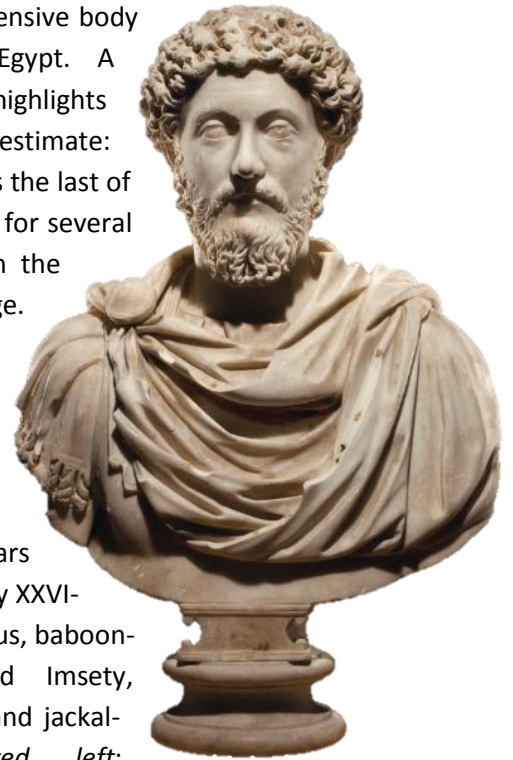


New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the inclusion of an important single-owner collection in the December 5, 2012 *Antiquities* sale and the January 30, 2013 sale of *Old Master Paintings*. The artists of the Renaissance looked to the world of Antiquity for inspiration and this beautifully curated collection reflects that important historical connection. The superb group of works reflects the passion and intelligence of true connoisseurs, ranging from Ancient Egyptian canopic jars and painted Attic amphorae to a masterpiece by the celebrated 16th-century portraitist Scipione Pulzone, and iconic works such as the bust of Marcus Aurelius and the extraordinarily rare *Madonna and Child* by Fra Bartolommeo. The collection is estimated to realize in excess of \$14 million.

ANTIQUITIES

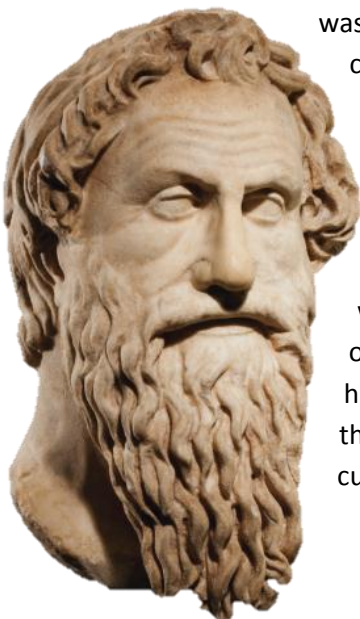
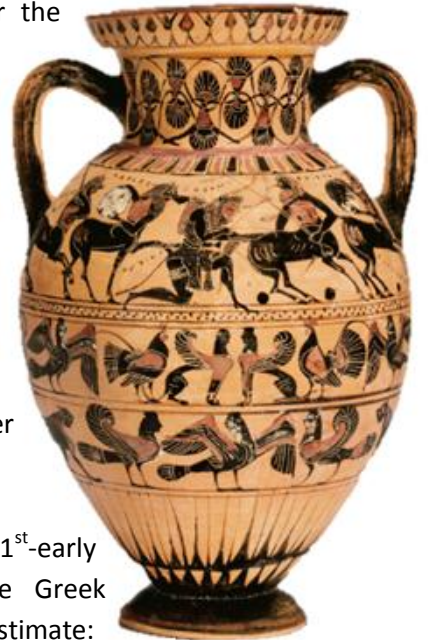
A demonstration of veritable connoisseurship, the collector developed an extensive body of works from antiquity that embrace the cultures of Greece, Rome, and Egypt. A Roman marble portrait bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, circa 170-180 A.D., highlights the selection of antiquities to be offered on December 5 (*pictured right*; estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). The celebrated philosopher-emperor, who was known as the last of the Five Good Emperors, is depicted here in his later years, after having ruled for several years. In addition to his characteristic tousled curls, he is portrayed with the mustache and beard of individual curling locks, denoting his wisdom and age.

This magnificent portrait has an impressive provenance, hailing from the renowned collection of classical sculpture from Marbury Hall, Cheshire, England, formed by the Honorable James Hugh Smith Barry during the Grand Tour in Rome circa 1776-1780.



A set of four Egyptian canopic jars dating to the Late period, Dynasty XXVI-XXX, depict the four sons of Horus, baboon-headed Hapy, human-headed Imsety, falcon-headed Qebehsenuef, and jackal-headed Duamutef (*pictured left*; estimate: \$60,000-80,000). Canopic jars were used to separately house each of the four organs – the liver, lungs, stomach, and intestines – removed from the deceased during the mummification process. Each organ was then believed to be under the protection of the respective son of Horus.

A fantastic selection of Greek vases, including kraters, kylikes, hydriae, and amphorae are also included in the collection. Among these is an Attic black-figured Tyrrenian neck-amphora, circa 560-550 B.C., which is attributed to the Fallow Deer Painter (*pictured right*; estimate: \$80,000-120,000). On the upper register, there is a violent scene in which a bearded Herakles, wearing the skin of the Nemean lion, kneels and prepares to draw his bow. The scene depicts a specific mythological tale. While Herakles was dining on Mount Pholoë as a guest of a wise centaur, Pholos, he was forced to defend the group against a wild pack of other centaurs, attracted to the area by the smell of wine.



A Roman Marble Portrait Head of Anisthenes, circa late 1st-early 2nd century A.D., is of grand scale, depicting the Greek philosopher in his advanced years (*pictured left*; estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Anisthenes was a student of Socrates and is often credited with founding the Cynic movement within Greek philosophy. It is said he wrote ten volumes of writings, most of which focused on themes of ethics and virtue, only fragments of which have survived. Epitomizing the unkempt intellectual, depictions of the philosopher, including the present example, always include his characteristic full-length beard, mustache, and thick curly hair.

OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

Of the highest quality and in exceptionally fine condition, the collection of old master paintings will be featured in a special curated sale devoted to the art of the European Renaissance. The cover lot of *Renaissance* will be Fra Bartolommeo's beautifully preserved *The Madonna and Child*, an important recent addition to the artist's *oeuvre* (pictured right; estimate: \$10,000,000-15,000,000). Likely executed in the mid-1490s, early in Fra Bartolommeo's career, this *tondo*-shaped oil on panel depicts a tender moment as the Christ child eagerly grasps his mother's veil, pulling himself up to receive a kiss. While this motif had originated in a late 13th-century icon known as the *Glykophilusa Madonna*, artists continued to portray the affectionate, maternal relationship throughout the centuries. Unlike his contemporaries, however, Fra Bartolommeo has painted the figures in profile, echoing Byzantine icons, thus elevating them to a beatified, inaccessible realm. Still set in its original frame, the circular form of the *tondo* is also of note, not only as an allusion to the halo, but also for the long-held associations with the shape. Greeks revered the circle as the most perfect geometrical form, Romans used circular portraits to denote the subject's apotheosis, and Renaissance contemporaries of Fra Bartolommeo associated the circular format with the cycle of birth, death, and resurrection at the center of the Christian faith.



Attributed to The Master of Antwerp Adoration, this well-preserved triptych, depicting *The Adoration of the Magi*, exemplifies the style of Mannerist painting that flourished in Antwerp in the early 16th century (pictured below left; estimate: \$500,000-800,000). The style is characterized by a high degree of finish, portraying the figures in visually striking poses, and using linear design to create an aesthetically appealing scene, all of which are apparent here. The



Adoration of the Magi is among the most common subjects for triptychs of the period, likely due to a strong personal resonance with merchant traders, many of whom were important art patrons. Artists would often pay homage to them by including a merchant motif in the background; in the present example, a glimpse of a caravan of horses can be seen over the standing King's shoulder.



A *Triumphal Procession* was executed by the 15th-century Florentine painter Bernardo di Stefano Rosselli as a decoration for a cassone, a chest used in the Renaissance to store clothing and objects of value, often elaborately decorated (*pictured above*; estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000). In addition to their utilitarian function, these pieces of furniture were usually commissioned in pairs to commemorate the matrimonial union of two powerful families. The frieze-like scene of the present example may represent the Triumph of Julius Caesar over the Gauls, reflecting the Florentine fascination with the Roman Empire. Interestingly, Rosselli has chosen to include contemporary architectural details in his scene of ancient Roman history. The Palazzo Rucellai, the Duomo, and the Loggia della Signoria, all edifices of Renaissance Florence, are visible in the background as the figures walk toward the gates of Rome.

A *Portrait of Jacopo Boncompagni*, executed in 1574 by Scipione Pulzone, is a stunning example of the artist's famed portraiture and was previously exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (*pictured right*; estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000). Pulzone was the most sought-after portraitist of his generation in Rome due to his extraordinary skill in meticulously capturing the minutest details of his subjects. Included amongst his most eminent sitters were Popes Pius V and Gregory XIII, as well as Ferdinando I de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and Marie de' Medici, Queen of France. The letter held in the present sitter's hand identifies him as Jacopo Boncompagni, the natural son of Pope Gregory XIII and commander of the Papal army. Boncompagni's role is underscored by the inclusion of a victorious St. Michael on his breastplate and the armorial decoration *all'antica*, which served the purpose of associating its wearer with ancient Roman military heroes. The closest surviving ceremonial armor to that seen in the portrait is today preserved at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



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Further details of Christie's Old Masters Week and Antiquities sales will be available in the coming weeks.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

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