

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK SALE OF *IMPORTANT WATCHES* ON DECEMBER 14 TO FEATURE **THE GORDON BETHUNE COLLECTION OF FIFTY EXCEPTIONAL VINTAGE WRISTWATCHES**



Rolex, Ref 6062. A Very Fine and Extremely Rare 18k Pink Gold Automatic Triple Calendar Wristwatch
Estimate: \$300,000-\$500,000



Patek Philippe, Ref 1518. An Extremely Fine and Rare 18k Pink Gold Perpetual Calendar Wristwatch
Estimate: \$600,000-\$900,000



Patek Philippe, Ref. 570. An Extremely Rare and Attractive Stainless Steel and Pink Gold Wristwatch with Black Dial
Estimate: \$60,000-\$90,000





New York – Christie's is pleased to announce its *Important Watches* auction on December 14 will feature an important single-owner collection: the ***Gordon Bethune Collection of Fifty Exceptional Wristwatches***. This beautiful array of top-quality timepieces from renowned manufacturers such as Patek Philippe, Rolex, Vacheron Constantin, and Cartier was assembled with care and great connoisseurship over a number of years by Mr. Bethune, a noted watch collector and former chief executive officer of Continental Airlines. This exceptional collection, estimated at \$3 million, will form the centerpiece of the day-long auction on December 14. The total sale of 348 lots is expected to achieve in excess of \$7 million.




Among the many exceptional watches in the Bethune collection is a **Patek Philippe Reference 1518**, a rare 18K pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases manufactured in 1945 (pictured above, center; estimate \$600,000 - \$900,000). This land-mark model was the first perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch produced in a series by any watch manufacturer, and only 281 examples were made between 1941 and 1954. The vast majority were cased in yellow gold; only an elite few were ever created in the highly-coveted "pink on pink" version, with a pink gold case and rose colored dial. The upcoming sale

marks the first time this watch has ever been offered at public auction, and is one of less than a dozen such “pink on pink” examples of the Reference 1518 seen in the last 30 years.

In keeping with his personal commitment to charitable giving, Mr. Bethune has pledged proceeds from the sale of five watches to benefit three charities with which he is actively involved. The Patek Philippe Reference 1518 will be sold to benefit the United We Care Employee Relief Fund and the United Scholarship Fund. A second top timepiece, his Rolex Reference 6062 wristwatch, will be offered for sale to benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. This rare model in pink gold features an automatic movement and triple calendar indications with moon phases and a star dial (pictured page one, left; estimate: \$300,000 – \$500,000).

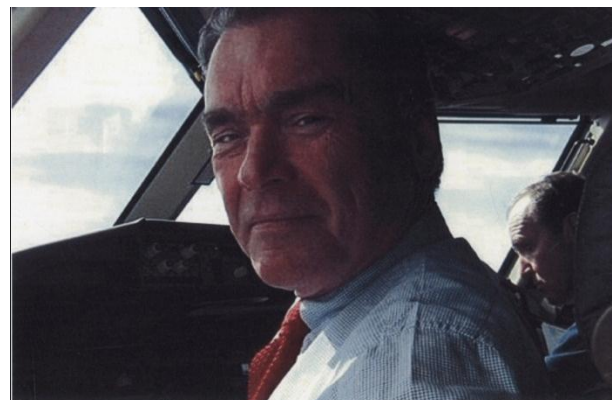
Additional highlights from the *Gordon Bethune Collection of Fifty Exceptional Wristwatches* include:

	<p>Rolex Reference 6036 A Very Fine and Extremely Rare 18k Pink Gold Triple Calendar Chronograph Wristwatch with Two Tone Silver Dial Made for the Italian Market Manufactured in 1955</p> <p>Estimate: \$180,000-\$280,000 <i>Sold to Benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society</i></p>
	<p>Rolex Reference 6236 A Fine and Rare Stainless Steel Triple Calendar Chronograph Wristwatch with Bracelet Manufactured in 1960</p> <p>Estimate: \$120,000-\$180,000</p>
	<p>Patek Philippe Reference 3971E A Fine and Rare 18k Pink Gold Perpetual Calendar Chronograph Wristwatch with Moon Phases, Retailled by Tiffany & Co. Manufactured in 1989</p> <p>Estimate: \$70,000-\$100,000</p>
	<p>Rolex Reference 6238 A Very Fine and Rare 14k Gold Chronograph Wristwatch, Retailled by Cartier Manufactured in 1965</p> <p>Estimate: \$50,000-\$80,000</p>

	<p>Rolex Reference 6238 A Fine and Rare Stainless Steel Chronograph Wristwatch with Black Dial Manufactured in 1964</p> <p>Estimate: \$40,000-\$70,000</p>
	<p>Patek Philippe Reference 565 A Fine and Rare Stainless Steel Wristwatch with Indirect Center Seconds and Breguet Numerals Manufactured in 1949</p> <p>Estimate: \$25,000-\$35,000</p>
	<p>Vacheron Constantin A Fine and Unusual Oversized 18k Two Tone Gold Rectangular Wristwatch Manufactured in 1931</p> <p>Estimate: \$20,000-\$30,000</p>

About Gordon Bethune

Gordon Bethune is most famously known for his herculean effort spearheading one of the biggest corporate turnarounds in United States history. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Continental Airlines from 1994 and a Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1996 until December 30, 2004. Beginning his career in aviation in the U.S. Navy at the age of 16, he started out fixing electronic and mechanical systems on jet planes. Bethune rose to be one of the youngest Chief Petty Officers and Warrant officers, later fully promoted as a commissioned officer. He retired as a Naval Lieutenant after 20 dedicated years of service.



Under Bethune’s leadership, Continental flourished winning more awards for customer satisfaction from J.D. Power and Associates than any other airline. In 1994, *Fortune* magazine ranked Continental its No. 1 Most Admired Global Airline and *BusinessWeek* named Bethune one of the top 25 global managers for 1996.

The United We Care Employee Relief Fund and the United Scholarship Fund

The United We Care Relief Fund was created so that active and retired employees can request emergency assistance due to natural disasters, medical illness, and other crises out of the employee’s control that might cause them to lose time from work and income. Since its inception, both Continental and now United Airlines employees have received over \$1.5 million since 2000.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was founded in 1904 as a private, non-profitable organization, sponsored by the Department of the Navy. Their undertaking, as stated by the society is, "The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to

members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs."

Further highlights from the Important Watches sale in New York will be announced in the coming days.

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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.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*



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