

CHRISTIE'S

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A RECORD-BREAKING WATCH AUCTION AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA

THE AUTUMN SALE OF IMPORTANT WATCHES
totals SFr. 27 million / US\$ 28.5 million

A Patek Philippe platinum wristwatch, ref. 2499/100
OFFERED FROM THE COLLECTION OF ERIC CLAPTON
sold for SFr. 3.4 million / US\$ 3.6 million



Aurel Bacs, *International Head of Christie's Watch Department*, selling the platinum 'J.B. Champion Platinum Observatory Chronometer'

Geneva - Christie's Geneva auction sale of **Important Watches including A Gentleman's Pursuit for Excellence, Part I** fetched a total result of SFr.27,042,825/\$28,557,223/€22,445,545, selling 96% by lot and 97% by value.

The exceptionally rare platinum perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases, ref. 2499/100, manufactured by **Patek Philippe** in 1987 and offered from the collection of **Eric Clapton**, sold for SFr. 3,443,000 / \$3,635,808 / €2,857,690, setting a world record price for this reference at auction.

The **top price** of the sale was paid for the '**J.B. Champion Platinum Observatory Chronometer**', a unique platinum chronometer wristwatch, ref. 2458, which was specially manufactured by Patek Philippe for J.B. Champion, the legendary American watch collector, in 1952. This historically important timepiece realized SFr.3,779,000 / \$3,990,624 / €3,136,570, setting a world auction record for a watch without complications.

World record prices were also set for numerous references and models in the following categories: Patek Philippe, Rolex, Omega, antique and 20th century enamels, decorative watches and contemporary watches.

Aurel Bacs, International Head of Christie's Watch Department, commented: “*Christie's auction of Important Watches in Geneva performed extremely well, demonstrating great consistency at all levels in terms of watches, prices and clients. In a broad, healthy and ever growing market, where buyers demand expertise and scholarship, we offered once again the finest selection of watches and wristwatches. A packed saleroom, today's seven-hour marathon auction welcomed some 500 registrants from five continents, generating stellar sell-through rates as well as breaking numerous records. Collectors, public and private museums, the trade and also an investment watch fund, battled out the bidding for the best watches seen at auction this season, reconfirming Christie's market leadership in every horological category. This is our recipe: sourcing top quality properties, pricing them accurately, presenting them to the right audience, in the right place, at the right time*”.

TOP LOT: J.B. CHAMPION PLATINUM OBSERVATORY CHRONOMETER

The most valuable lot of the sale, an historically important and unique platinum chronometer wristwatch with Guillaume balance, Bulletin d'Observatoire, additional diamond-set dial and platinum bracelet, ref. 2458, made especially for J.B. Champion by Patek Philippe in 1952, sold for SFr.3,779,000 / \$3,990,624 / €3,136,570 (lot 88).

ERIC CLAPTON'S PATEK PHILIPPE REF. 2499/100 IN PLATINUM

Offered from the Collection of Eric Clapton, an exceptionally rare platinum perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases, ref. 2499/100, manufactured by Patek Philippe in 1987, sold for SFr. 3,443,000 / \$3,635,808 / €2,857,690 (lot 151). Only once previously sold at auction in 1989, it then changed hands for \$250,999.

A COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE POCKET WATCHES MADE FOR CHINESE MARKET

100% sold by lot and by value, the sensational collection of antique watches, comprising the different styles made for the export to China, fetched a total result of SFr.2,303,500 / US\$2,432,496 / €1,911,905, exceeding its pre-sale estimate by five times. The top lot of the collection was an exceptional gold and enamel openface centre seconds duplex watch with enamel by Jean-François-Victor Dupont, made for the Chinese market by William Ilbery, London, circa 1815 (lot 194), which sold for SFr.651,000 / US\$687,456 / €540,330.

The majority of the pieces offered for sale were acquired by the present owner and her late husband during their repeated journeys to the Orient between the late 1950s and the 1970s.

A GENTLEMAN'S PURSUIT FOR EXCELLENCE, PART I

Part I of *A Gentleman's Pursuit For Excellence*, a superb private collection of complicated Patek Philippe wristwatches and pocket watches, totalled SFr.1,332,000 / US\$1,406,592 / €1,105,560. The top lot of the collection was a white gold automatic perpetual calendar wristwatch with moon phases, ref. 3448, manufactured by Patek Philippe in 1974 (lot 316), which sold for SFr.387,000 / US\$408,672 / €321,210.

Part II will be offered at Christie's Geneva on 13 May 2013.

UPCOMING SALES OF IMPORTANT WATCHES AT CHRISTIE'S

28 November	Christie's Hong Kong	Important Watches
14 December	Christie's New York	Important Watches

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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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