

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 30 NOVEMBER 2012
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REDISCOVERED ROENTGEN

Commode owned by David Roentgen leads final sale of the
500 Years: Decorative Arts Europe season in December



London - The season of *500 Years Decorative Arts Europe* sales will conclude with *The European Connoisseur* on 6 December 2012. Highlights include a rediscovered piece of furniture from the workshops of David Roentgen, the most celebrated German cabinet-maker of the late 18th century; currently the focus of the *Extravagant Inventions The Princely Furniture of the Roentgens* exhibition in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. This is an important discovery of a piece that once furnished his own home and remained with his descendants for nearly 150 years. (estimate: £150,000 – 250,000, *illustrated above*).

Photographed *circa* 1920 in the house of Ida Wenck, née Roentgen, the great-granddaughter of David Roentgen, beneath the portraits of members of the celebrated cabinet-making dynasty, the commode was part of the Roentgen estate which was subsequently sold by Heinrich Römer, a nephew of Ida Wenck, and which has long presumed to have been lost. Whereas most other items of the Roentgen estate eventually ended up either with the Roentgenmuseum in Neuwied or, with the help of the New York patron Leopold Heinemann, at the Metropolitan Museum, the present commode was sold privately and was only recently re-discovered (in a private collection). Its history almost certainly started in the private apartments of the impressive Neuwied town house David Roentgen (1743-1807) built in the mid-1770s. During a visit to Paris, in 1779, Roentgen sold several pieces of furniture both to King Louis XVI and to Marie-Antoinette, who rewarded his efforts with the courtesy title of *ébéniste-mécanicien du Roi et de la Reine*. This title further helped open doors to courts across Europe and Roentgen soon supplied furniture amongst others to King Frederic Wilhelm II of Prussia, the electors of Hessen and Saxony, the Dukes of Württemberg and the margraves of Baden.

Further Highlights:	
	<p>A pair of Louis XIV ormolu-mounted, brass and tortoiseshell Boulle marquetry and ebony console tables, <i>circa</i> 1710-20</p> <p>Estimate: £400,000-600,000</p>
	<p>A Flemish brass, copper, pewter and mother-of-pearl inlaid, tortoiseshell and Boulle marquetry panel attributed to Michiel Verbiest and Peter De Loose, Antwerp, <i>circa</i> 1690</p> <p>Estimate: £70,000 – 100,000</p>
	<p>A pair of late Louis XVI ormolu, patinated and blued-bronze four-light candelabra attributed to Francois Remond, <i>circa</i> 1780-85</p> <p>Estimate: £300,000 – 500,000</p>

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