London/South Kensington - Christie's is pleased to announce *Harewood: Collecting in the Royal Tradition*, two auctions of works primarily selected from outside the core collections at Harewood House. These feature many works with the royal provenance of H.R.H. The Princess Mary, Princess Royal and Countess of Harewood (1897-1965) (see illustration above), only daughter of H.M. King George V and H.M. Queen Mary, and of her son George, 7th Earl of Harewood, who died in 2011. The first sale will take place at Christie's King Street, London, on Wednesday 5 December 2012; providing extraordinary insight into *Collecting in the Royal Tradition*. It will comprise Chinese works of art, Fabergé, *objets de vertu* and superb examples of the work of Matthew Boulton, the celebrated English maker of 18th century ormolu *objets de luxe*. This auction will be followed by ‘The Attic Sale’ at Christie's South Kensington on Sunday 9 December; presenting a fascinating array of diverse works from Harewood's crowded storerooms – few of which have ever been on public display - including furniture, pictures, porcelain, textiles and silver. These sales are part of the arrangements following the death of George, 7th Earl of Harewood (d. 2011). During Lord Harewood’s fifty four year stewardship, Harewood House was transformed from a superb but very private house into one of the best known and most welcoming stately homes open to the public. The two auctions are expected to realise a combined total in excess of £2 million.
David Lascelles, Earl of Harewood: “Following my father’s death in July last year we have entrusted Christie’s with select sales of works of art from Harewood. The vast majority of these items are kept in store, rarely if ever seen by the general public and are not part of the magnificent 18th century collections for which Harewood is so well known. The works have been carefully selected by the executors in consultation with Harewood House Trust’s curatorial team to ensure that their absence will have a minimal impact on the collections.”

Edward Clive, Director of Christie’s: “The auction at King Street provides discerning international collectors with an insight into the taste of previous Royal collectors, whilst ‘The Attic Sale’ at South Kensington will provide a unique glimpse into the day-to-day life of this distinguished household through an array of treasures that have been in storage and largely unseen in public, with estimates from £300. Both sales have been carefully selected to ensure that the historic integrity of the renowned 18th century collections remain intact – focusing instead on later additions by inheritance, gift and purchase.”

CHRISTIE’S LONDON, 5 DECEMBER 2012
HAREWOOD: COLLECTING IN THE ROYAL TRADITION

CHINESE WORKS OF ART

Princess Mary married the 6th Earl in 1922 when she was 24. In 1930 they moved to Harewood. Her correspondence at this time shows she had already become a keen collector of Chinese works of art. Her serious interest as a collector is demonstrated in her letters about the display of Chinese objects. "I have a collection of Chinese amber, jade and hardstone trees etc..."

Two of the jade items from Princess Mary’s own collection include a superb 19th century white jade jue which is rare both in terms of its form and also the very white jade in which it is carved (estimate £40,000-60,000, illustrated right) and also a Mughal-style white jade ‘chrysanthemum’ bowl, which is thickly carved in comparison to other bowls of this type (estimate: £30,000-50,000, illustrated left).

FABERGÉ

In the early 20th century many European royal families shared an enthusiasm for the luxury objects created by Fabergé in St Petersburg, often exchanging them as presents to mark significant occasions. It is thought that Princess Mary’s collection of these treasures were gifts from her parents and her grandmother H.M. Queen Alexandra (1844-1925).

The sale includes two superb jewelled picture frames, each with an image of her father H.M. King George V; the first, from 1899-1904, contains a photograph of him (estimate:
£40,000-60,000, illustrated page 2, right), the other, from 1903-1904, a charming miniature (estimate: £30,000-50,000, illustrated page 2, left). Among the other highly personal Fabergé lots there is a jewelled gold-mounted mother-of-pearl and guilloché enamel fan with a diamond-set initial ‘V’, which was once in the possession of the Princess’s aunt H.R.H. The Princess Victoria (1868-1935) (estimate: £60,000-80,000, illustrated right); a nephrite cigar cutter with the monogram of the Princess’s grandfather King Edward VII, circa 1900 (estimate: £20,000-30,000, illustrated left) and a jewelled gold and silver cigarette case enamelled with the racing colours of King Edward VII, circa 1909 (estimate: £50,000-70,000, illustrated right).

WORKS OF ART, SCULPTURE & FURNITURE

The influences of the royal family’s collecting patterns, particularly those of Queen Mary, are demonstrated in this sale by the magnificent and rare George III ormolu-mounted Blue-John 'King’s' vase (estimate: £200,000-300,000, illustrated left) by the celebrated 18th century English craftsman Matthew Boulton. This superb object was bought by Princess Mary’s husband, the sixth Earl of Harewood, at Christie’s in 1947. It was part of the sale of the collection formed by Princess Mary's brother, H.R.H the Duke of Kent, whose collecting was much influenced by their mother Queen Mary. A pair of very elegant George III ormolu-mounted white marble pot-pourri vases and covers is one of several further highly sought after examples of Boulton’s work to be offered (estimate: £40,000-60,000, illustrated below right).

The sale also features a striking Chinese flambé-glazed vase mounted by Vuilliamy estimated at £40,000-60,000; a Roman bust of a young man, circa early 2nd century A.D. (estimate: £40,000-60,000, illustrated left) and a magnificent pair of armchairs from a set of fifteen by the Otley born cabinet-maker Thomas Chippendale, circa 1775, not included as part of the 1980s restoration of Harewood (estimate £200,000-300,000).
The ‘Attic Sale’ to be held at Christie’s South Kensington on 9 December, four days after the London sale at Christie’s King Street, presents a treasure trove of objects with estimates starting at just £300. The following highlights capture the essence of day-to-day life at the heart of the most personal & refined collections, which have been acquired over generations.

A pair of Edwardian glass decanters, together with twelve glasses; each etched with Prince of Wales feathers issuing from a coronet above a buckle-and-strap cartouche bearing the motto of the Order of the Garter for George V (1901-10) when Prince of Wales
Estimate: £1,500-2,000

A silver oblong snuff-box, by Nathaniel Mills, Birmingham, 1840, depicting York Minster
Estimate: £1,800-2,200

A pair of George III parcel-gilt and white-painted open armchairs attributed to John Linnell
Estimate: £6,000-9,000

Items with the monogram of H.R.H. The Princess Mary, Princess Royal, Countess of Harewood (1897-1965) include (from left to right) a collection of mid-20th century ladies’ gloves
Estimate: £400-600

Two George V hunting whips with horn handles, one 15 carat gold-mounted leather-bound example and a silver-mounted example with bamboo shaft (detail illustrated above), London, 1913, engraved with initial ‘M’ below a coronet
Estimate: £300 – 500

H.R.H. The Princess Mary’s ostrich feather fan; the mother-of-pearl handle applied with a gold crowned monogram ‘M’
Estimate: £300-500
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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