

CHRISTIE'S

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REMBRANDT, DÜRER & BLAKE Lead Old Master Prints at Christie's London in December



Old Master Prints

Christie's King Street

Thursday, 6 December 2012

London – For the sixth consecutive year, Christie's will hold an annual auction of *Old Master Prints*; representing the only sale at an international auction house dedicated to this venerable collecting field. To coincide with the sales of Old Master Paintings, the auction will take place at King Street on Thursday, 6 December. On offer will be fine and important prints by the great masters of the medium, such as **Albrecht Dürer**, **Rembrandt**, and **Goya**, as well as rare works by some of the more arcane figures of printmaking, such as **Urs Graf**, **Augustin Hirschvogel** and **Giovanni Battista de Cavalieri**. Showcasing ninety-six lots, this sale provides exceptional buying opportunities for established and new collectors, with estimates ranging from £2,000 up to £100,000.

Leading the sale is one of the great oddities in the history of European printmaking: *Enoch* (estimate: £100,000 – 150,000, *illustrated above*), the only lithograph by the English poet, artist and mystic **William Blake** (1757-1827), created in 1806/1807. In his characteristically idiosyncratic way, Blake did not simply adopt this

newly invented printing technique, but developed his own somewhat complicated method, which is described in the manuscript on the reverse of this impression. The result of his experimentation is visually appealing, yet must have proved unpractical – only four impressions have survived and the present one may well be the last ever to come to the market.

The auction is largely made up of a fine selection of over forty prints by **Rembrandt**, led by one of his most atmospheric landscape prints, the *Landscape with three gabled Cottages beside a Road* (estimate: £50,000 – 70,000, *illustrated right*). The impression offered encapsulates all the factors that make a great Old Master Print: fine printing quality, very good condition and excellent provenance. The print comes from the Rosenwald Collection, the majority of which forms the core of the print holdings of the National Gallery of Washington. Other highlights from Rembrandt's printed oeuvre include some fine and

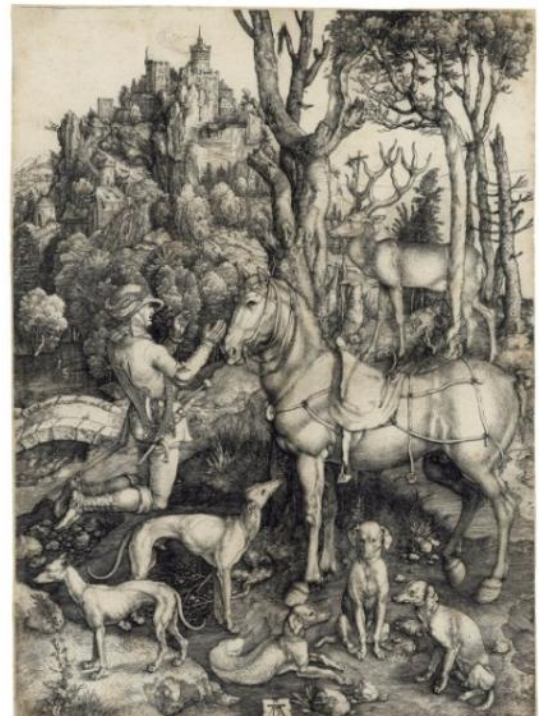


very intimate portraits of family and friends, such as *The Artist's Mother seated at a Table, looking right* (estimate: £12,000 – 18,000), a self-portrait with his wife, the famous *Self-Portrait with Saskia* (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000) and *Ephraim Bonus, Jewish Physician* (estimate: £30,000 – 50,000, *illustrated left*). The whimsical little *Sheet with two Studies: A tree and the upper Part of the Head of the Artist* is a nearly unobtainable rarity (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000).



Albrecht Dürer, the foremost printmaker of the Renaissance, is best represented in the sale with three famous works. The largest of all **Dürer's** engravings, *Saint Eustace*, his great early *tour-de-force* of around 1501 (estimate: £80,000 – 120,000, *illustrated right*), and *Adam and Eve*, 1504 (estimate: £50,000 – 70,000), both admired for their abundant and meticulous depiction of the natural world; and the most celebrated woodcut from his *Apocalypse*-series, *The Four Horsemen* (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000), a masterpiece in the rendition of movement and speed.

Unusually, the generation of artists after **Dürer** is best represented by **Augustin Hirschvogel**, whose prints hardly ever appear on the market - this sale offers the rare opportunity to acquire not just one but several of his highly sought-after landscape prints with estimates ranging between £3,000 and £7,000).



Hirschvogel is the first printmaker to exclusively use the then new technique of etching and one of the first to create prints of landscapes and buildings without any religious or allegorical content (*illustrations below*).



Jonah and the Whale on a Lake with Sailing Vessels
Estimate: £5,000 – 7,000



Castle Yard
Estimate: £7,000 – 10,000



Landscape with a winding wooden Bridge
Estimate: £6,000 – 8,000



Landscape with a Church
Estimate: £3,000 – 5,000

The sale includes other rarities such as the large engraving of the *The Massacre of the Innocents* by **Giovanni Battista de Cavalieri** from 1561 after a now lost painting by Francesco Salviati (estimate: £5,000 – 7,000) and a set of playing cards by **Stefano della Bella**, the *Jeu de la Mythologie* (estimate: £8,000 – 12,000), devised by Cardinal Mazarin for the education of King Louis XIV of France, when still a child.

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Please click [here](#) for the complete e-Catalogue

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PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Friday, 30 November 2012: 9am – 4:30pm
Saturday, 1 December 2012: 10am – 5pm
Sunday, 2 December 2012: 10am – 5pm
Monday, 3 December 2012: 9am – 4:30pm
Tuesday, 4 December 2012: 9am – 3:30pm
Wednesday, 5 December 2012: 9am – 4:30pm

AUCTION:

Old Master Prints

Thursday, 6 December 2012
Time: 2:30pm

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.*