

13 April 2012

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF
SIR PATRICK LEIGH FERMOR:
TRAVEL WRITER AND EXTRAORDINARY WAR HERO



Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor

Image: National Portrait Gallery

Sir Patrick, regarded as a biographer's dream, was a rare combination of scholar and man of action with charisma and good looks. An eminent travel writer, 'Paddy' was most famous for his account of his year-long walk from Rotterdam to Istanbul in 1934, when he was only eighteen years old. This journey was later published in his popular books *A Time of Gifts* (1977), and *Between the Woods and the Water* (1986).

South Kensington - Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of the principle contents of Mill Farm, Gloucestershire, the home of the late Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor. Known as 'Paddy' to his friends, Sir Patrick was a legendary travel writer and extraordinary war hero who was once described as 'a cross between Indiana Jones, James Bond and Graham Green.'

The Collection will be offered as the first 100 lots of the Interiors sale on 15th May, and is expected to realize a total in excess of £150,000. The Collection will include decorative objects, books, furniture, Modern British and Old Master pictures, as well as silver objects of vertu, with estimates from only £200.

The collection is of particular interest not only due to the variety and quality of the pieces on offer, but also because of the fascinating story of the life of Sir Patrick, which gives these pieces an exciting and unique provenance.



Lot 17

A George III silver three-bottle
inkstand

Estimate: £700-1,000



Lot 78
A Celestial Globe
Estimate: £200-300

It would be hard to think of a more exciting life lived in the 20th century: having survived the fall of Crete, he lived in caves in the mountains disguised as a shepherd for a year and a half during the Nazi occupation from 1941. In 1944 he and fellow writer Bill Stanley Moss went on to avoid capture by dressing as German police officers and bluffed their way through twenty-two different check-points. As a result of his dedicated service he received a DSO and is considered to be a national war Hero in Crete to this day.

After the war Fermor journeyed around Greece with his wife Joan, devoting much of his time to writing and staying with his artistic and creative friends – including the artist Nico Ghika, see lot 48.

Both Fermor and Joan were very sociable personalities, and some of their many eminent friends and admirers included Alberto Giacometti, Lawrence Durrell, John Betjeman, Lucian Freud and Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, many of whom frequently visited The Mill House where they shared and cultivated a love for the arts. This love is eloquently displayed through the fine quality of items in this collection.



Lot 50
John Banting
Untitled
Estimate: £3,000-5,000



Lot 48
Nicolas Ghika
A Rocky Place
Estimate: £12,000-18,000

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High resolution images and further information available upon request

Notes to Editors:

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Saturday, 12 May: 11.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday, 13 May: 11.00am – 5.00pm
Monday, 14 May: 9.00am – 7.30pm

AUCTION:

Interiors - Tuesday, 15 May 2012 at 10am

ECATALOGUE:

The full catalogue will be available to view online from mid-April at www.christies.com/calendar

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £300. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% 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.*

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

OPENING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

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