

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 05 November 2013

A TREASURE TROVE OF RARE & IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES On Offer at Christie's in November



London – Christie's is pleased to announce the forthcoming bi-annual sale of *Centuries of Style: Silver, European Ceramics, Portrait Miniatures and Gold Boxes* that will be held over two consecutive days in London on Tuesday, 26 & Wednesday, 27 November 2013. This sale offers collectors a superb opportunity to add to their collections with a wide-range of important, rare and unique treasures.

SILVER

The silver section of the sale presents exemplary pieces of extraordinary quality from the 16th century to the 21st century, it is expected to realise in the region of £1.5 million. The auction is led by two very important Private Collections of Georg Jensen silver, which contain many outstanding pieces by the maker and the largest collection to be offered in London in recent years. Among the stars is a rare and important *Danish fish dish, cover and mazarine*, designed by Harald Nielsen (1892-1977). This beautifully crafted silver displays the greatest originality of design and is amongst the largest items made by the Jensen workshop, measuring 65 centimetres wide. This work is expected to realise between £80,000 and £120,000 (*illustrated right*). Further examples of the highest quality of European silver include *a pair of Danish five-light candelabra* (estimate: £40,000-60,000), which is one the most spectacular piece of Jensen silver to be offered.



A further highlight is a magnificent *Danish jug* designed by Henning Koppel (1918-1981) (estimate: £25,000-35,000, *illustrated right*). Known as the “African Girl”, due to its elegant handle stacked with “necklaces”, this pitcher was the first in the series that was designed in 1948 and has become an icon of Scandinavian modern design.



GOLD BOXES & OBJECTS OF VERTU

This sale presents a varied and interesting array of gold boxes and *objects of vertu*, displaying examples of the many techniques employed by European goldsmiths during the 18th and 19th centuries. This section of the sale is led by a highly important and incredibly rare *Louis XV enamelled gold snuff-box*, by Louis Charonnat (estimate: £150,000-200,000, *illustrated left*). This striking piece displays outstanding enamelling extract, which has been attributed to Charles-Jacques de Mailly, who worked in Paris during the 1760's and 1770's and later in St Petersburg. De Mailly is known for his grisaille allegorical scenes which are surrounded by brightly coloured flower garlands.



A French *jewelled enamelled gold presentation snuff-box*, circa 1860, by Louis Tronquoy, a highly-sought after name in the world of gold boxes, is another important example (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated right*). The striking box is set with diamonds that form the initials of Isma'il Pasha (1830-1895) Khedive of Egypt and Sudan. A presentation box, it was given by Isma'il to a Dutch contractor who was working for him in Egypt during the late 19th century.



Further highlights include an important Private Greek Collection belonging to the Late Mrs. Melas (1908-1983), comprising twenty-five boxes with estimates ranging from £2,000 up to £60,000. This outstanding collection started in 1954 when Mrs. Melas purchased a *boîte-à-miniatures* set with miniatures by the 18th century engraver Jacques-Joseph de Gault, from the auction of the King Farouk Collection, The Palace Collections of Egypt, in Cairo. A leading example is an exquisite *Louis XVI gold-lined boîte-à-miniatures*, by Adrien Vachette (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated left*).

PORTRAIT MINIATURES

Charming British portrait miniatures are a notable part of the sale, they are offered alongside an array of rare and important Continental sitters and artists. A remarkable group of royal sitters is led by two exceptional examples by Nicholas Hilliard (1547-1619), *King James I of England and VI of Scotland (1566-1625)* (estimate: £15,000-20,000) and *King Charles I (1600-1649) when Duke of York* (estimate: £15,000-25,000). Further highlights from this group include an exquisitely detailed miniature of *King James II of England and VII of Scotland (1633-1701)* by Samuel Cooper, the second son of Charles I, who ascended to the throne upon the death of his brother, Charles II (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated right*).





Members of the German royal families of Bavaria, Hesse-Cassel and Prussia are well represented by a portrait of *Queen Louise of Prussia* (1776-1810) (estimate: £6,000-8,000) and two remarkable miniatures by Anton König (1722-1787) and Daniel Chodowiecki (1726-1801) depicting the German Emperor Frederick the Great, King of Prussia during the 1740's through to the 1780's. Both König's *Frederick the Great* (estimate: £6,000-8,000) and Chodowiecki's *Frederick the Great on horseback* (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated left*) depict the King planning his military movements in battle. Frederick the Great remains one of the most renowned German rulers of all time for his military successes and his domestic reforms that made Prussia one of the leading European nations. Further highlights include exemplary works by Heinrich Füger (1751-1818), led by an impressive miniature of *Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor* (1747-1792) (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

EUROPEAN CERAMICS



One of the many spectacular and unusual offerings in the European Ceramics section is a striking pair of *hispano-moresque copper lustre and blue drug-jars* from the mid-15th century (estimate: £35,000-40,000, *illustrated left*). These boldly decorated pieces have not been on the market for over fifty years; they are very rare examples, remarkably large in size and in exceptionally good condition

A further rare piece is a *Staffordshire salt glaze Stoneware 'scratch-blue' Jacobite loving-cup* (estimate: £7,000-10,000, *illustrated right*). The cup depicts Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788), known as the 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'. He instigated the unsuccessful

Jacobite uprising of 1745 in which he attempted to restore the Stuarts to the throne of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The Meissen section of the sale is led by an important private collection of good early pieces decorated with Chinoiserie and European subjects, comprising sixteen lots with estimates ranging from £2,000 up to £12,000.



PRESS CONTACT
Amber Hailes | +44 (0) 207 389 2391 | ahailes@christies.com

NOTES TO THE EDITORS:

Highlights from the Gold Boxes section, including the Louis XV enamelled gold snuff-box, by Louis Charonnat, French jewelled enameled gold presentation snuff-box by Louis Tronquoy and a selection of boxes from the Melas Collection will be exhibited in Geneva during the Important Jewellery view.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION, Geneva:

Friday, 8 November 2013: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, 9 November 2013: 10:00am – 7:00pm
Sunday, 10 November 2013: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Monday, 11 November 2013: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Tuesday, 12 November 2013: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Location: The Four Seasons, Hotel des Bergues, Quai des Bergues 33, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

PUBLIC EXHIBITION, London:

Friday, 22 November 2013: 9:00am – 4:30pm
Saturday, 23 November 2013: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Sunday, 24 November 2013: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Monday, 25 November 2013: 9:00am – 8:00pm

AUCTION:

Centuries of Style, Silver, European Ceramics, Portrait Miniatures and Gold Boxes
Tuesday, 26 November 2013 at 10:30am
Wednesday, 27 November 2013 at 10:30am & 2:30pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/\$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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.*

###

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app