

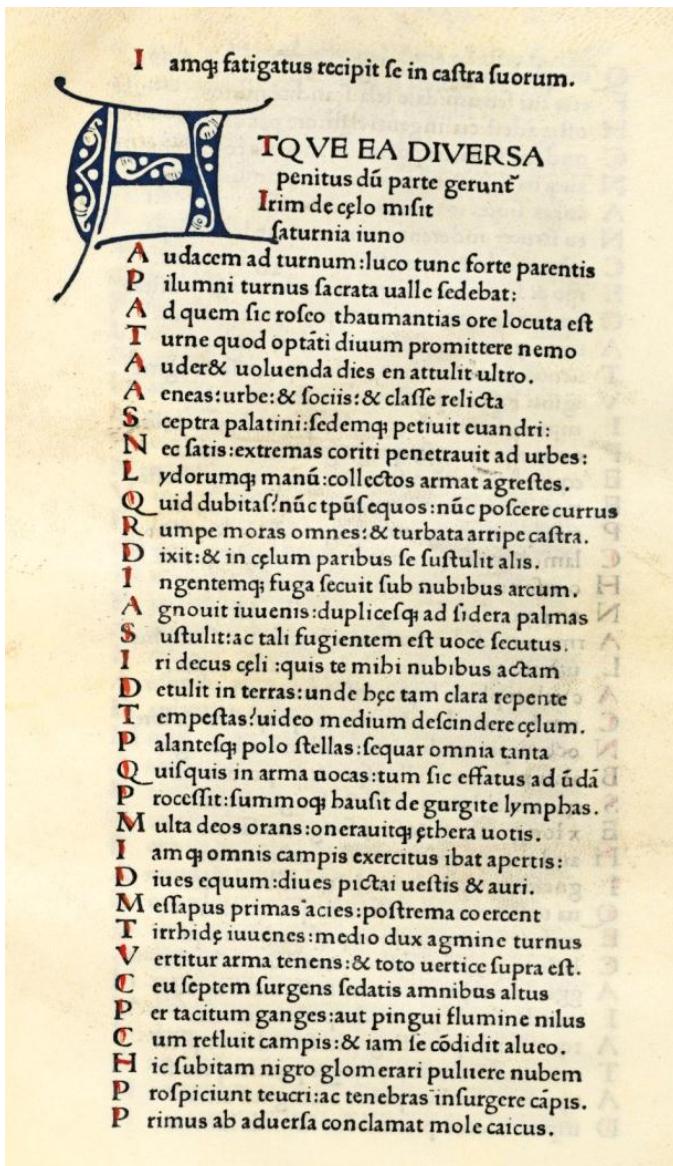
# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 13 May 2013

## NEWLY DISCOVERED COPY OF VIRGIL'S *OPERA*

Earliest obtainable edition of the works of the greatest  
Latin poet at Christie's in June

Most important early printed book to be  
offered this century



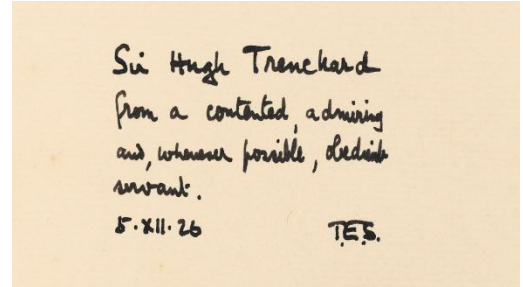
London – On 12 June 2013, Christie's London will offer a newly discovered, deluxe copy of *Opera* by Virgil (70-19 B.C.) in the sale of *Valuable Printed Books & Manuscripts* (estimate: £500,000 – 800,000). *The Aeneid* is accepted as the foundation stone of western literature, and this copy is the earliest edition a collector could ever aspire to own.

Printed in 1470, within a year of the beginning of printing in Venice, it is the second edition, acknowledged to be textually superior. Its rarity is indicated in the fact that the last copy to come on the market was sold almost a century ago, in 1920. This newly discovered copy is complete and printed on costly vellum for a wealthy patron; the elegance of its page and the hand-painted decoration add to its resemblance to a Renaissance manuscript, and indeed, an earlier owner may have regarded it as a manuscript, perhaps contributing to its true identity not being recognised until now.

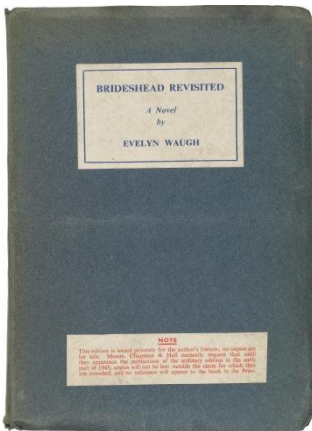
This book combines rarity with great aesthetic beauty but also represents a monumental moment in the history of printing.

## VALUABLE PRINTED BOOKS

One of the iconic modern books in the sale is *Seven Pillars of Wisdom, A Triumph*, by Thomas Edward Lawrence (1888-1935) (estimate: £50,000 – 100,000). It is one of the ‘incomplete’ copies reserved for personal presentation by Lawrence to his close friends, this copy specially bound in ‘R.A.F.’ blue for air marshal Trenchard. Hugh Trenchard, considered the father of the modern R.A.F., was a powerful figure in Lawrence’s life. The two men met at the Cairo conference, and it was Sir Hugh who arranged for Lawrence, at age 34 and already well known, to enlist among the ranks in 1922 under the assumed name of Ross, and to re-enlist in 1926 after his identity had been revealed and forced his discharge 3 years earlier. Lawrence held Trenchard in extremely high regard and Trenchard continued to act as protector and benefactor throughout Lawrence’s life. This copy is inscribed by the author on flyleaf: ‘Sir Hugh Trenchard from a contented, admiring and, whenever possible, obedient servant’ (*illustrated above*).



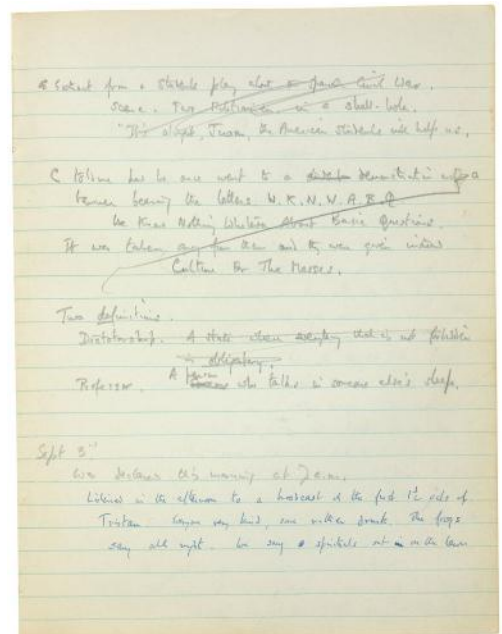
Sir Hugh Trenchard  
from a contented, admiring  
and, whenever possible, obedient  
servant.  
5.XII.26 T.E.L.



A rare copy of *Brideshead Revisited, the sacred and profane memories of Captain Charles Ryder* by Evelyn Waugh (1903-66) is one of 50 copies printed for the author for presentation in a pre-publication edition (estimate: £18,000 – 25,000, *illustrated left*). This copy was presented to Sir Fitzroy Maclean, the soldier, writer, and politician, who is considered to be an inspiration to Ian Fleming for the character of James Bond.

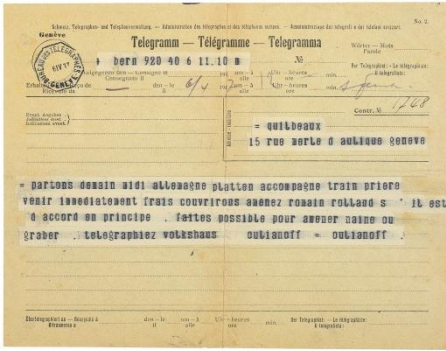
## AUTOGRAPH LETTERS

Highlighting a diverse selection of autograph letters and manuscripts is the unpublished handwritten journal of W.H. Auden (1907-1973) (estimate: £40,000 – 60,000, *illustrated right*). The journal, beginning in September 1939, is one of only three he is known to have kept, and was widely believed to have been lost. Auden started this journal as ‘a discipline for my laziness and lack of observation’ on his return to New York from California after ‘the eleven happiest weeks of my life’ in the honeymoon period of his relationship with Chester Kallman. He opens with a brief inventory of his present state: ‘At 32 ½ I suppose I shall not change physically very much for some time except in weight which is now 154 lbs ... I am happy, but in debt ... I have no job. My visa is out of order. There may be a war. But I have an epithalamion to write and cannot worry much’. Providing an incomparable insight into the poet’s activities and reflections at the turning point in his life, this is the most substantial and significant Auden manuscript ever to have been offered at auction.



Sept 3  
I asked for a suitable play after a few days  
and saw: The Philistines - a short play.  
"The night, I mean, the American standards will help us."  
C. Tolson has to see what to do about the situation in  
France being the letter U.R.N.V.A.B.P.  
He has been talking about the British  
It was taken as for the end of the year with  
Cultural for The Masses.  
Tom definition  
Distributing - A other than anything that is not possible  
Professor - A ~~man~~ who talks in some one's sleep.  
Sept 3  
I've written this morning at 10 am.  
Lived in the afternoon to a house at the foot of the side of  
Trotter - some very kind, one with some. The boys  
say all right. In my 20 minutes at the end of the day





A telegram sent by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924) marks the moment when, electrified by hearing of the February Revolution in Russia, news of which reached him on 15 March 1917, Lenin immediately began plotting his return from exile in Switzerland, a task which was significantly complicated by the hostile status of the intervening countries of Germany and Austro-Hungary (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000, *illustrated left*). The telegram, which announces Lenin's departure for Russia was sent on 6 April 1917 to French socialist Henri Guilbeaux in Geneva under Lenin's birth name, Ulaynov. Lenin reached Petrograd on 16 April and within six months in the wake of the October Revolution, Lenin was to be the master of the Russian empire.

## ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

From medieval choir book leaves to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century painted letters of William Burges, the illuminated manuscripts are strikingly diverse, ranging in scope from monastic codices to lavishly illuminated Books of Hours and dazzling cuttings and leaves by artists like Bartolomeo Neroni, the Mazarine Master and the Master of the Murano Gradual. Of greatest rarity is a unique compilation of texts and translations by some of the most important 14th-century English mystical authors (estimate: £100,000 – 150,000, *illustrated right*). The manuscript, which has never been seen at auction, has an unbroken provenance within a single ancient English family from before 1540, with more than sixty of their family records inscribed on the flyleaves. These rare English medieval texts are offered in their original binding.



Further highlights include *The Book of the Fraternity of the Holy Spirit of Billerbeck*, illuminated in Germany at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £70,000 – 100,000). It is the earliest surviving record of the formation and activities of an important German fraternity.



A collection of illuminated letters and drawings by William Burges, the leading 19th-century gothic revivalist architect and designer, are his earliest known surviving works, illuminated when he was just 13 years old (estimate: £7,000 – 9,000, *illustrated left*). They provide a charming and intimate insight into the tastes and budding aesthetic of one of the greatest Victorian architects.

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Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

### PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Saturday, 8 June 2013: 12pm - 5pm  
Sunday, 9 June: 12pm - 5pm  
Monday, 10 June 2013: 9am - 4:30pm  
Tuesday, 11 June: 9am - 8pm

### AUCTION:

Valuable Printed Books & Manuscripts  
Wednesday, 12 June 2013  
10:30am

## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last 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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