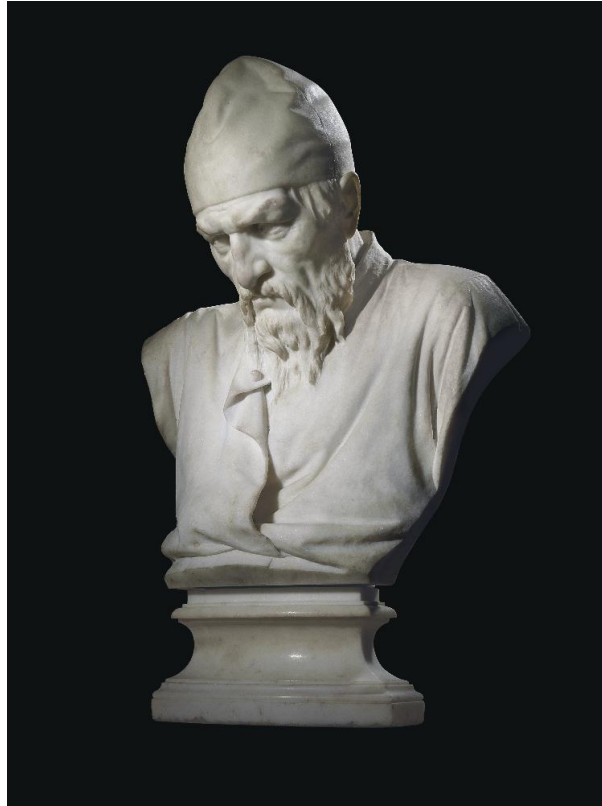


CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK RUSSIAN ART SALE FEATURES FRESH TO THE MARKET WORKS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS



Mark Antkol'skii (1843-1902) *Ivan the Terrible*, 1877, marble, 28 ¾ in. (73 cm.) high, \$100,000-150,000

New York – Christie's sale of **Russian Works of Art** on April 9 in New York features a strong selection of fresh to the market works from distinguished private collections, many with Russian Imperial and royal provenance. Highlighting the sale are two sculptures by the most influential Russian artists of the late 19th Century; a marble bust of *Ivan the Terrible* by Mark Antkol'skii from the collection of Prince Ivan Obolensky, and a bronze bust *Portrait of I.E. Repin* by Viktor Vasnetsov, from the descendants of Alexander Siloti (both estimated at \$100,000-150,000). The sale is comprised of nearly 150 lots and expected to achieve in excess of \$1.9 million.

Christie's is honored to present the prestigious collection of Prince Ivan Obolensky, which includes nine decorative works of art in the sale, and important pictures to be offered in London in June. Tracing its origins to Rurik, the 9th Century founder of the first ruling dynasty of Russia, the Obolensky family has been very influential throughout Russian history, producing generations of soldiers and statesmen. Ivan was born in 1925 in London to Prince Serge Obolensky (1890-1978) and Ava Alice Muriel Astor (1902-1956), daughter of John Jacob Astor IV (1864-1912) and Ava Lowle Willing (1868-1958). In the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, many aristocrats fled without their possessions and were forced to recover them on the international market, and it is in this manner that Prince Serge was able to acquire much of his collection while living in London.

The highlight from the collection of Prince Ivan Obolensky is a marble bust of *Ivan the Terrible* created in 1877 by Mark Antokol'skii (1843-1902), who is regarded as the most important Russian sculptor of the second half of the 19th Century (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Known for his realistic portrayal of historic subjects, the artist spent a great deal of time researching the life and psyche of Tsar Ivan IV (1530-1584), Grand Duke of Moscow (1533-1584), who was the first Russian ruler to formally assume the title of Tsar in 1547. The sculpture was produced during a surge of intellectual interest about Ivan the Terrible, following A.K. Tolstoy's novel *The Silver Prince*, which was serialized in 1862. The sculpture of *Ivan the Terrible* was pivotal to Antokol'skii's career and enjoyed wide success in Russia and throughout Europe.



Another distinguished collection featured in the sale is property from the descendants of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna. The collection includes more than 30 lots of family heirlooms, including photograph frames, icons, and personal correspondence, and highlighting the group is a Fabergé silver-gilt and guilloché enamel photograph frame, which was purchased by Empress Maria Feodorovna from Fabergé's St. Petersburg shop on December 31, 1899 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).

Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (1875-1960) was the eldest daughter of Emperor Alexander III (1845-1894) and Empress Maria Feodorovna (1847-1928) and the sister of the future Emperor Nicholas II (1868-1918). Xenia married Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich (1866-1933), a grandson of Emperor Nicholas I (1796-1855), and together they raised seven children, one daughter and six sons. Following the Russian Revolution, Xenia and her family, together with her mother, Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, were rescued by the British battleship, HMS Marlborough. Xenia eventually settled in England, at first living at Frogmore Cottage in Windsor Great Park and later relocating to Wilderness House in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace.

Other sale highlights include a collection of Fabergé cigarette cases from a Private Collection, Cumberland Island, Georgia (estimates from \$6,000-8,000), a silver and cloisonné enamel three-handled cup by Feodor Rückert from a Southwest Private Collection (\$50,000-70,000), bronze equestrian group of General Mikhail Skobelev, a hero of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 and important Russian national figure, by Evgenii Lanceray (\$50,000-70,000), and a collection of salt thrones from an Important Swiss Collector (estimates from \$3,000-5,000).



A parcel-gilt silver and cloisonné enamel large three-handled cup



A jeweled silver-gilt and guilloché enamel cigarette case



A bronze equestrian group of General Mikhail Skobelev



A silver trompe l'oeil model of a table with bread and salt throne

Note to Editors:

The *Portrait of I.E. Repin* was previously announced. To read the press release, [click here](#).

PRESS CONTACTS: Sara Fox | +1 212 636 2680 | sfox@christies.com
Elizabeth Van Bergen | +1 212 636 2680 | evanbergen@christies.com

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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**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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