

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 12 JUNE 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPORTANT WATCHES AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON JUNE 17



ROLEX, REFERENCE 6538 (LOT 37)
A VERY RARE AND FINE STAINLESS STEEL AUTOMATIC
WRISTWATCH WITH GILT FOUR-LINE DIAL AND
CENTER SECONDS. MANUFACTURED IN 1957.
ESTIMATE: \$60,000 – \$100,000



PATEK PHILIPPE, REFERENCE 2499 (LOT 185)
A FINE AND VERY RARE 18K GOLD PERPETUAL
CALENDAR CHRONOGRAPH WRISTWATCH WITH
MOON PHASES. MANUFACTURED IN 1976.
ESTIMATE: \$260,000 – \$360,000

New York – Christie's New York auction of *Important Watches* on June 17 will offer over 260 vintage and modern timepieces, pocket watches, and pens. Highlights include an exceptional 1903 Patek Philippe Two Train Trip Minute Repeating Split-Seconds Chronograph (Lot 118; estimate: \$50,000 – \$70,000; one of only three known and fresh to the market), and a unique Patek Philippe Hunter Case Pocket Watch with miniature enamel by famed artist Susan Rohr of Renoir's *Two Sisters* (Lot 65; estimate: \$120,000 – \$180,000). This sale features a special selection of Vacheron Constantin watches, including an Important Single-Button Chronograph, formerly owned by King Alexander I of Yugoslavia (Lot 81; estimate: \$40,000 – \$60,000). Additional top lots include a rare Patek Philippe Reference 3424 designed by Gilbert Albert and one of only five known to come to market in white gold (Lot 57; estimate: \$50,000 – \$80,000), an attractive Patek Philippe Reference 2499 *Third Series* (Lot 185; estimate: \$260,000 – 360,000), an extraordinary Rolex Submariner Reference 6538 (Lot 37; estimate \$60,000 – \$100,000) with a "big crown" in unpolished and original condition, and a group of special vintage Panerai watches (Lots 153, 154, and 155).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

PATEK PHILIPPE



The important selection of Patek Philippe timepieces is highlighted by the **Reference 2499** (Lot 185; *illustrated above*). The reference 2499 was introduced to the market in 1950 and is acknowledged to be one of the most coveted wristwatches of all time. The Reference 2499 perfectly embodies Patek Philippe's technological and artistic know-how, and has greatly inspired and influenced the configurations of many important wristwatches. Moreover, this particular **Reference 1518** (Lot 48; estimate: \$200,000 – \$400,000) was last seen at auction in 1987, marking its appearance at auction on June 17 the first time it will appear in public in nearly 30 years. The full crisp lugs and short signature on the beautiful dial make this an extremely desirable watch for the discerning collector.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

ROLEX



In 1970, Rolex introduced two new Cosmograph Daytona models; the Reference 6262, which was manufactured for only one year in 1970, and the present example **Reference 6264** (Lot 40; estimate: \$80,000 – \$120,000), manufactured for three years in 1970 – 1972. Both were produced in stainless steel, and only the Reference 6264 appeared on the international market also in 18k and 14k gold. Fresh to the market, the present watch is of great interest to collectors not only because of its rarity, but also because of the *Tiffany & Co.* signature on the dial. This remarkable example is made even special because of its original condition.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

VACHERON CONSTANTIN



Purchased by the father of the current owners circa 1963 during a layover in Dubrovnik, the present Vacheron Constantin wristwatch (Lot 81; estimate: \$40,000 – \$60,000) has never before been offered at auction. In remarkable overall condition given its history, the watch is fascinating from both horological and historical perspectives. Single button chronograph wristwatches were first produced during the golden age of watchmaking in the 1920s and 30s. A true classic at the time and even today, their elegant lines and understated quality make them a trophy for any passionate collector. The original owner of the watch was King Alexander of Yugoslavia (December 16, 1888–October 9, 1934), who lived during one of the most turbulent times of the 20th Century. The provenance is confirmed in a letter from Vacheron Constantin. As a young man, Alexander spent time in Geneva schooling and one can only speculate that years later his early experiences in Switzerland could lead him to buy a Vacheron Constantin, which was known as the preferred timepiece of royalty. The present example presents a unique opportunity to collectors to own such a marvelous wristwatch with royal provenance.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 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 totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

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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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