

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | WORLDWIDE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 September 2016

## THE CELEBRATORY AUCTIONS:

40 YEARS OF PATEK PHILIPPE'S NAUTILUS 1976 – 2016

# NAUTILUS | 40

DUBAI

GENEVA

HONG KONG

NEW YORK



**Christie's** - Forty years ago Patek Philippe launched a steel sports wristwatch that was to become pivotal to the company's ongoing image and success. The *Nautilus* is today one of the most desired and sought-after collectors' watches and Christie's will be celebrating this important milestone in the history of an undisputed legend by offering a selection of 40 examples of the *Nautilus* over four auctions in four international locations. The Autumn Dubai sale season will mark the start of this celebration on 19 October, followed by Geneva, Hong Kong in November and New York in December.

John Reardon, International Head of Christie's Watch department comments: "After Christie's groundbreaking *Patek Philippe 175 auction* in 2014, our international team wanted to organize something special around the next monumental moment in the history of Patek Philippe: 40 years of the Nautilus model. The global Christie's watch team from Geneva, Dubai, Hong Kong, New York, and LA sourced 40 exceptional watches, retracing each step of the developments of the Nautilus - a dream of all watch collectors around the world. We are looking forward to launching the celebration in Dubai, by offering the first 10 watches and showcasing for the first and last time watches of all 4 sale venues."

In a world where large steel sports watches are commonplace it is hard to comprehend quite how groundbreaking and startlingly different the *Nautilus 3700/1* was back in 1976. The use of stainless steel as the prime metal for most of the production of the reference was then very daring, as was the

sleek, unusually large 42 millimeter case which quickly gained the nickname “Jumbo”. Water resistant to 120 meters reference 3700/1 was christened “*Nautilus*” in honour of Captain Nemo’s submersible craft from Jules Verne’s novel *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*. The design brilliantly conceived by Gerald Genta for Patek Philippe was in fact based on the shape of a porthole of a transatlantic liner with wide bezel and “ears” at each side evoking the large hinges of those watertight windows. Patek Philippe’s *Nautilus* is imbued with practicality, luxury, ruggedness, elegance, technical know-how but above all that indefinable quality - style. Subtle updating over the years and new models added to the range ensure that the *Nautilus* remains as fresh and contemporary today as it was forty years ago.

## DUBAI – 19 OCTOBER



The Dubai auction on 19 October will offer the first 10 Nautilus watches, highlighted by a stainless steel Nautilus ref 3700/1 made for the Sultanate of Oman in 1978 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). This reference 3700/1 with Oman dial, the Khanjar dagger in a sheath superimposed upon two crossed swords, is one of only two confirmed examples of the Nautilus model in stainless steel made to special order for the Royal household of the Sultanate of Oman. The first of the two example to surface on the market was *case no. 536'201* and sold at Christie’s Geneva on 14 May 2012. It is most significant that the present watch, fresh to the market, has the immediately preceding case number of *536'200*. Of equal significance is the fact that both these Nautilus’ were sold on the same day – 31 July 1978, proving beyond any doubt it was certainly one of the original batch sold to the Sultanate of Oman. During those early years there were no official watch agents in Oman and so almost all of the watches made by various brands with “Khanjar” dials were supplied through the ultra high-end retailer Asprey of New Bond Street in London.

The auction also offers reference 3700/3, which is a very rare diamond-set version of the gold “Jumbo” Nautilus model. As confirmed by the extract from the Patek Philippe archives it is set with 112 diamonds. The watch has the large-size 16.5 mm. bracelet of the first generation *Nautilus*, being made in 1981 it must be one of the very last of the watches made with a Favre-Perret case, confirmed by the presence of their mark inside (estimate: \$70,000.120,000).



## GENEVA – 14 NOVEMBER

Ref 3700/031 in platinum and diamond by Patek Philippe is without a doubt the most important Nautilus to come to the market ever. The discovery of this stellar watch in 2015 has rewritten the previously accepted scholarship on the über-rare platinum version of the Nautilus. Only one other platinum Nautilus is known publically, reference 3700/1P, with diamond-set dial. Christie’s sold the previously unknown reference 3700/1 (case number 552'214) in platinum for the impressive amount of 783'000 CHF. The second platinum Nautilus here for sale is not a standard reference 3700/1, but rather a 3700/031: indeed part of the echelon of jewelled timepieces, the most exclusive and rarified of Patek Philippe’s productions. Most likely a special order, it is highly probable that no other watch left Patek Philippe with this same configuration, or even with the same reference. As incredible as it may sound, the historical



importance of the first haute joaillerie platinum 3700 is matched by its condition. Never restored, most probably never polished, and worn a handful of times at most, the proportions and finish of this majestic timepiece shine in all their glory (estimate: CHF500,000-800,000).

To the best of Christie's knowledge, the present lot, ref 3700/1 in yellow gold has never before been offered in public. Furthermore this is only the second time that a reference 3700/1 in yellow gold featuring the crest of Oman has been offered at auction. The other known example with movement no. 1'305'066 (seven numbers after the present watch), case no. 537'352 (four numbers after the present watch), was sold at Christie's Geneva, on 11th November 2013. Significantly and importantly both known watches were originally sold on the same day, 27th September 1978, to the Sultan. This reference 3700/1 is not only amongst the rarest and most exclusive examples of a gold Nautilus ever offered at auction but is one of the scarcest of all Khanjar watches in existence. This solid gold Nautilus "Jumbo" is in excellent state of preservation with original "Swiss sigma" dial showing the first signs of mellow tropicalization found on some early and untouched Nautilus dials (estimate: CHF 200,000-400,000).

## HONG KONG – 28 NOVEMBER

Just two weeks after half of the 40 Nautilus watches will have been offered, Hong Kong will present the next batch of Nautilus watches, including a very rare reference 3800/108 in 18k white gold. The standard ref 3800 Nautilus model was in production from 1981 to 2006 and was available in different versions as to case material and dial layout. The ref 3800/108, the highly jeweled example of the model was made in very limited quantities. A collector's mind could hardly imagine a more lavish sports watch than ref 3800/108, a fully pave-set Nautilus (estimate: US\$64,000-100,000)



Reference 5712 was released in 2006 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nautilus model. It was available in stainless steel, pink or white gold and replaced reference 3712 which was in production only 2 years, from 2005 to 2006.

The reference 5712GR was officially released at Baselworld 2012. Today, this reference is no longer listed in Patek Philippe's catalogues and since production time was not long this model is much sought after by Nautilus collectors (estimate: US\$32,000-45,0000).

## NEW YORK – 6 DECEMBER



One day after Christie's will have celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary - it was on 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1766 that James Christie held his first sale in London – the New York watch team will present the last remaining 10 Nautilus watches in the final section of this anticipated thematic sale. There are four spectacular examples of the celebrated reference 3700 in steel focusing on its earliest development, highlighted by the mint and complete 3700/1 offered with its original cork presentation box and original certificate of origin. Additionally offered is a reference 3700/1, but this one with the extremely rare and early dial type showcasing baton minute markers, preserved in excellent condition with original cork box. New York is also pleased to present a 3800/1A from 1992 with a rare grey dial variant with arabic numerals. Furthermore, New York includes two 5711/1As signed Tiffany, one of the most coveted of all modern wristwatches, offered here in each of the two dial colors ever produced to date. As we follow this sale over the course of three exciting months across the globe, New York can finalize this paramount event by showcasing the sought-after Nautilus model from its beginnings through to its most modern interpretations.

AUTUMN CALENDAR – IMPORTANT WATCHES AT CHRISTIE'S	
Christie's Dubai	19 October 2016
Christie's Geneva	14 November 2016
Christie's Hong Kong	28 November 2016
Christie's New York	06 December 2016

### PRESS CONTACTS:

Alexandra Kindermann | +41 44 268 1019 [akindermann@christies.com](mailto:akindermann@christies.com)

### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2016 that totalled £2.1 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

2016 marks Christie's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 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. Click [HERE](#) to view a short film about Christie's and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

