

CHRISTIE'S

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The Collector: Online

11 May – 1 June 2020

At Home with Craftsmanship

European and English Furniture, Silver, Ceramics, Gold Boxes and Works of Art from the 17th to 19th Century



Four specially commissioned bespoke vignettes (two featured above of a study and dining room) showcase selected lots from the sale

London – Christie's unveil *The Collector: Online*, bringing centuries of artisan craftsmanship into your home, encompassing European and English furniture, silver, ceramics, gold boxes and works of art ranging from the 17th to the 19th century. The 264 lot sale, with estimates ranging from £200–35,000, includes notable designers and makers John Linnell, Thomas Chippendale, Jean-Baptiste Gourdin, Alfred Beurdeley, William Pitts and Christofle amongst others. From an antique bureau for your study or office, to statement lighting designed to enhance any room, our specially commissioned series of four virtual vignettes (see above) showcase highlights from the sale to inspire. [The auction](#) is now open for browsing and bidding online until 1 June.

Paul Gallois, Head of Sale, comments: *"Following the very successful New York Collector Sale which closed last week, for the first time from London we are delighted to present 'The Collector: Online', opening for bidding today, 11 May, until 1 June. During this unprecedented period in our lives, whilst a great many are spending more time than ever at home, interiors have become a major focus of comfort, familiarity and aesthetic expression. Browsing The Collector sale via both the sale e-catalogue and in situ via the original illustrated vignettes is seamless and inspiring".*

Paul continues, *"We have an opportunity to revisit, enlighten and refresh our living space, perhaps now more than at any other time, via the addition of beautiful, yet accessible antique furniture and objets d'art. 'The Collector: Online' sale will enable collectors, enthusiasts and interior designers to discover pieces sustainably to fit their own, or their clients' requirements, to ultimately enhance and add to the overall enjoyment of their homes".*

English Furniture and Objects



Amongst the fine examples of English furniture is: *An Irish George II Mahogany Silver Table*, circa 1750, an excellent example of mid-eighteenth century furniture. The frieze is beautifully carved with scrolls and centered by a shell, an iconic Irish characteristic (estimate: £8,000-12,000, *illustrated left*).

A George III Mahogany Serpentine Dressing-Commode. Attributed to William Gomm, circa 1765. This piece relates closely to a design from the early 1760s by the cabinet-maker William Gomm (circa 1697-1780) of Clerkenwell Close, and it was published by the important furniture historian R. W. Symonds in his *Masterpieces of English Furniture and Clocks*, London, 1940. The commode was previously in the renowned collection of Lord and Lady Samuel of Wych Cross (estimate £30,000-50,000, *illustrated right*).



A pair of George III stone-painted, walnut hall chairs, circa 1760. From the mind of an iconic designer, these distinctive hall chairs are after a famous design by Thomas Chippendale (1718-1779), considered by many to be Britain's greatest cabinet-maker. His reputation spread far beyond the shores of his homeland, and his genius is reflected in the number of beautifully designed and executed pieces of furniture that survive today (estimate: £4,000-6,000, *illustrated left*).



European Furniture and Objects

Highlights from the European Furniture and Objects include: *A late Louis XV Ormolu-Mounted Sycamore, Tulipwood, Satinwood, Amaranth and Fruitwood Marquetry Secrétaire* showcasing excellent marquetry. Its unusual hinged, deep, rectangular top is stamped by the *ébéniste* Antoine-Léonard Couturier, *maître* in 1767. It was in the collection of Frances, 4th Marchioness of Bath (1840-1915), *née* Vesey, daughter of Thomas Vesey, 3rd Viscount de Vesci), who married John Alexander Thynne, 4th Marquess of Bath in 1861. When the 4th Marquess died in 1896, their eldest son, Thomas Henry Thynne inherited the title and estates. Although it is not known when the Dowager Marchioness acquired this *secrétaire*, in 1915 it was recorded in an inventory in the 'Sitting Room' of her London address at 15 Manchester Square. (estimate £15,000-25,000, *illustrated right*).



A Pair of Louis XV Giltwood Fauteuils A La Reine by Jean-Baptiste Gourdin, Third Quarter 18th Century. The elegant and sinuous design of these superb fauteuils, consisting of a delicate interaction of scrolls, curves and lines, is characteristic of Jean-Baptiste Gourdin's most accomplished work executed during the early years of his career, circa 1748-'60 and a superb example of the very best seat furniture masterminded in France in the 18th century (estimate £40,000-60,000 *illustrated left*).



Gold Boxes



A Swiss enamelled gold snuff-box, Geneva, circa 1820. Although unmarked, this beautiful snuff-box is an exceptional example of the high quality of objects produced by the most eminent craftsmen working in Geneva at this time, with many destined for export to the far and Middle East. Goldsmiths produced a variety of magnificent objects of vertu from small *etuis* to more elaborately decorated boxes such as this example *illustrated left*. Many Swiss pieces were not signed by their makers, perhaps in response to their Chinese clients preference for pieces to be unsullied by marks (estimate £6,000-8,000, *illustrated left*).

A German paste-set and enameled gold presentation snuff-box. Carl Martin Weishaupt & Söhne (FL. From 837), Hanau, circa 1880. The crowned cypher A for Albert (1828-1902) was the King of Saxony and a member of the House of Wettin. He was the eldest son of Prince John who succeeded his brother Frederick Augustus II on the Saxon throne as King John in 1854, by his wife Amalie Auguste of Bavaria. Albert had a successful military career leading Saxon troops that participated in the First Schleswig War, the Austro-Prussian War, and the Franco-Prussian War.



Carl Martin Weishaupt was established as a goldsmith in Hanau in 1801 and from 1837 onwards the firm was registered as C.M.Weishaupt und Söhne. European royal courts frequently bought French and German snuff-boxes, mounted with the cypher or portrait of their respective rulers for use in diplomatic presentations. Hanau boxes by makers such as Charles Colins Söhne or Carl Martin Weishaupt and Sons were frequently used in the 19th century and were directly commissioned by the royal courts to either make or adapt snuff-boxes for presentation to celebrate coronations, weddings or diplomatic treaties (estimate £6,000-£8,000, *illustrated left*).

Silver



A large Austro-Hungarian Silver jug which served as a horse racing prize for the well-known Nemzeti-Díj, won by Metallist in 1884; the jug is symbolically chased with views of Buda and Pest and in the forefront the famous Széchenyi Chain Bridge designed by English engineer William Tierney Clark, built in 1849 by Scottish engineer Adam Clark, while the handle is cast with a large dragon known as a *sárkány*, a legendary monster in Hungarian mythology (estimate £6,000-8,000, illustrated left)

A Victorian Silver-Gilt Salver, mark of Daniel and Charles Houle, London 1866, is applied in the centre with the arms of Mervyn Wingfield, 7th Viscount Powerscourt (1836-1904) of Powerscourt, co. Wicklow and his wife Lady Julia Coke (1844-1931), daughter of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Leicester

(1822-1909), whom he married in 1864. It matches another one with the arms of his father Richard, the 6th Viscount. Both were instrumental in the upgrading and completion of the magnificent gardens at Powerscourt, the remodelling of the interior of the house with the addition of a wing and a new dining room realised under the direction of the eccentric architect Daniel Robertson (estimate £5,000-8,000, shown right).



19th Century Furniture and Objects



Emile Coriolan Hippolyte Guillemin (French, 1841-1907) *Rétiaire et Mirmillon, gladiateurs romains (Retiarius and Mirmillo)*. These Roman gladiators dating to 1870 are inspired by Jean-Léon Gérôme's painting *Ave Caesar! Morituri te salutant (Hail Caesar! We Who Are about to Die Salute You)*, which depicts similarly posed gladiators saluting the Emperor Vitellius. The gladiator styled as a fisherman with weighted net and three-pointed trident is called a Retiarius and the other is a Mirmillo. Such 19th century characterisations informed the gladiatorial fight scenes in American cinema, and similarly styled figures appear in *Ben-Hur (1959)* and *Gladiator (2000)* (estimate £12,000–18,000, shown left).

'The Collector: Live' is scheduled to take place in July at Christie's London, featuring important and exceptional lots. More information will be made available in June. Follow [@christiesinteriors](https://www.instagram.com/christiesinteriors) for further details.

To view the full sale please click [here](#) for the e-catalogue

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About Christie's

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Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. **Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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