

CHRISTIE'S

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Christie's Announces

MASTERPIECES FROM A ROTHSCHILD COLLECTION London, 4 July 2019

- Collected Across Centuries and Treasured for Generations –
Including

A Louis XVI table by Riesener commissioned by Queen Marie Antoinette
and a pair of cabinets commissioned for King Philip V of Spain



A pair of Royal Flemish tortoiseshell, brass and pewter inlaid marquetry and giltwood cabinets,
commissioned from Henrick van Soest, Antwerp circa 1713 for Philip V King of Spain
Estimate: £1.5 – 2.5 million

London – Telling the remarkable story of objects collected across centuries and treasured for generations, Christie's will offer a landmark collection sale *Masterpieces from a Rothschild Collection* in London on 4 of July. Comprising approximately 57 lots each with exceptional provenance, this sale includes important *European Furniture, Works of Art and Old Master Paintings*, collected by members of the prominent Rothschild banking family, particularly by Baron Gustave de Rothschild (1829-1911), and housed in some of the family's magnificent residences.

The sale captures the spirit of *le goût Rothschild* – the celebrated aesthetic that has influenced many European and American interiors since the 19th century – which follows the tradition of collecting at European Royal courts during the Renaissance, Baroque and Enlightenment periods. With estimates ranging from £10,000 to £2.5 million, select highlights will be on view in New York between 25 and 30 April

and in Hong Kong from 24 to 27 May, followed by the London preview which opens to the public on 29 June.

Charles Cator, Deputy Chairman, Christie's International: *"The Rothschild name is synonymous with collecting at the very highest level, with many of the world's greatest works of art having a Rothschild provenance. Their fabled name is added to the extraordinary roll call of illustrious owners of these masterpieces, so many of them Royal, from Louis XV and Marie Antoinette to William Beckford and Prince Demidoff. This sale is a celebration of connoisseurship and passionate collecting and we are very proud to have been entrusted with these masterpieces. With the great resonance of the Rothschild provenance among collectors and institutions this is an unparalleled opportunity, which marks a very special high point in my long career at Christie's. It is thrilling to have the privilege of handling these supreme works."*

Highlights include:

FURNITURE WITH ROYAL PROVENANCE



The top lot of the sale, a pair of royal Flemish tortoiseshell, brass and pewter inlaid marquetry and giltwood cabinets, was commissioned in Antwerp *circa* 1713 for **Philip V King of Spain**, the second son of the Grand Dauphin and grandson of Louis XIV (estimate: £1.5 – 2.5 million, *one of two illustrated left*). This highly important pair of cabinets on stand, inlaid with superb and precious marquetry panels in tortoiseshell and engraved metals, belongs to a group of four cabinets originally commissioned for Philip V King of Spain from the workshop of the celebrated Antwerp furniture-maker and dealer Henrick Van Soest (1659-after 1726), one of the most prestigious cabinet-makers of Flanders who worked in the great tradition of Netherlandish marquetry furniture.

Commissioned by **Queen Marie Antoinette of France** almost certainly for her Petit Trianon, a Louis XVI ormolu-mounted mahogany *table à écrire*, *circa* 1780, is by Jean-Henri Riesener, the Queen's favoured cabinet-maker (estimate: £600,000-1,000,000, *illustrated right*). Notably, the table is marked with Marie Antoinette's *garde-meuble* brand which was applied to her personal furniture after 1784.



Further lots with Royal provenance include a sundial by Julien Le Roy (1686-1759) which is thought to have been commissioned by **King Louis XV of France** (1710-1774) (estimate: £60,000-80,000, *illustrated left*).

Traditionally from the Spanish Royal family, and part of a very small group of luxurious 18th furniture incorporating Sèvres porcelain plaques is a Louis XVI ormolu, Sèvres porcelain and marquetry *guéridon*, *circa* 1782-83, by one of the most famous *ébénistes* of the late 18th century, Martin Carlin (estimate: £400,000-600,000, *illustrated right*). Acquired by Baron Gustave de Rothschild, this lot is closely related to a *guéridon* in the Frick collection. Other lots with notable links to leading institutions include a magnificent late Louis XV ormolu-mounted ebony and Japanese lacquer *ensemble* consisting of two commodes (*one illustrated left*) and a pair of encoignures by Bernard III van Risenburgh, son of the celebrated master known as BVRB.



Conceived in a bold avant-gardist neo-classical style, the commodes from this group are closely related to the masterpiece by the same *ébéniste* now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The group comprises three lots with a combined estimate of £1,500,000 to £2,500,000.

KUNSTKAMMER OBJECTS



A set of ten parcel-gilt polychrome square enamel plaques by Leonard Limousin, *circa* 1550, each depicting an apostle in a circular wreath and with an identifying banner, have an estimate of £200,000 to £300,000 (*detail illustrated left*). Also acquired by Baron Gustave de Rothschild, 'The Rothschild Apostles' exemplify Limousin's finest creations in his clear sense of colour and the lively and original compositions. Two of the plaques, of Saint Andrew and Saint Bartholomew, are signed 'LL'. These plaques formed part of a larger set of sibyls, prophets and saints that adorned the antependium of an altar in the now-lost church of Santa Maria della Celestia in Venice. A number of the other plaques from the antependium, and also a liturgical lamp that hung above the altar, remained in the Rothschild family until recently; one is in the Correr Museum in Venice.

An important **German silver-gilt double-cup**, mark of Hans Beutmüller, Nuremberg, 1594-1602, was in the collections of both Baron Mayer Carl von Rothschild and Baroness James de Rothschild (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated right*). It is in the Gothic style revived in Nuremberg by Hans Petzold (1551-1633) at the end of the 16th century. Hans Beutmüller (1588-1622) worked with Petzold and ranked, in his own right, amongst the most reputable Nuremberg goldsmiths.



A Venetian rectangular parcel-gilt, gilt-bronze and **rock crystal casket**, *circa* 1600 belonged to the renowned collector and author William Beckford in the early 19th century (estimate: £100,000- 150,000, *illustrated left*). With the precious use of rock crystal and Islamic-inspired lacquer decoration it is obvious why it would have appealed to Beckford. When this casket was sold in the celebrated Fonthill Abbey

sale of 1823, it was said to have come from the collection of Pope Paul V Borghese, who could have commissioned it himself. The casket was purchased at the Fonthill sale by an agent on behalf of the 2nd Earl Grosvenor.

IMPORTANT OLD MASTER PAINTINGS



David Teniers' lively and brilliantly observed *The Ham Dinner* was painted in 1648, when the artist was at the height of his powers (estimate: £800,000-1.2 million, *illustrated left*). Executed on an impressively large copper plate, allowing for a high degree of finish, it is an excellent example of the tavern scene genre that Teniers developed and excelled in. The painting has exceptional provenance, having been

in the collection of Charles Ferdinand, Duke of Berry (1778-1820), son of the future King Charles X of France, and later belonging to Count Anatoly Nikolaievich Demidov, 1st Prince of San Donato (1813-1870), a Russian industrialist and one of the most significant collectors of his day. A further Old Masters highlight is Jean-Honoré Fragonard's dynamically designed, vibrantly coloured and masterfully executed *Dans les blés*, which is a masterpiece of the artist's full maturity (estimate: £700,000-1 million, *illustrated right*). It is an outstanding example of the artist's intimate, small-scale 'boudoir' pictures, that are recognised as his most original and lasting contribution to the history of art.



To find out more, please see Christie's content piece:

https://www.christies.com/features/Rothschild-Collection-masterpieces-9821-3.aspx?sc_lang=en

PRESS CONTACTS:

Hannah Schweiger | 020 7389 2964 | hschweiger@christies.com

Notes to Editors

Christie's has a rich history of offering works from the collections of the Rothschilds, including the Collection of Barons Nathaniel and Albert von Rothschild, at Christie's London, 8 July 1999, in which a Royal commode by Riesener sold for £7,041,500, setting a world record price for a piece of French furniture which still stands. The commode is now at Versailles.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. 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.

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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Images available on request

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