



CHRISTIE'S

Contact: Carine Decroi +33.1.40.76.85.88 cdecroi@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER

**TWO OF THE TOP-TEN MOST IMPORTANT
PATEK PHILIPPE WRISTWATCHES
EVER TO APPEAR AT AUCTION**

**TOGETHER EXPECTED TO FETCH
BETWEEN \$3 AND \$5 MILLION**



- An unpublished platinum Patek Philippe, Reference 2497, re-discovered at original's owner family, estimated between \$ 1,500,000 and \$ 2,500,000
- A unique stainless steel Patek Philippe, Reference 1526, a milestone in the history of watch making, estimated between \$ 1,500,000 and \$ 2,500,000
- A Collection of 26 Rolex Submariner and Sea- Dweller wristwatches from a European Gentleman to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of Rolex, estimated range from \$ 4,000 to \$ 50,000
- Important watches by the finest watch manufactures in the world such as Breguet, Audemars Piguet, Vacheron Constantin, Cartier and Omega

IMPORTANT WATCHES

Monday 12 May 2008 - 10:00 am, 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Christie's Geneva - Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues

Geneva – Following the record-breaking sales of 2007 where Christie's International Watch Department confirmed its leading position, Christie's Geneva now presents today a selection of the finest and rarest watches by world-renowned watchmakers to be sold in its auction of *Important Watches* on 12th of May. This auction will doubtlessly be the focus of attention of international watch collectors and connoisseurs. This landmark sale is comprised of just over 380 timekeepers and is expected to fetch between \$ 15 and \$ 25 million.

***Aurel Bacs, International Co-Head of the Watch Department declared,** "Considering that many of the 'all-time stars' of wristwatch collecting are no longer in private hands and appear extremely rarely on the market, it is a sensation that the May auction offers two unique Patek Philippe masterpieces. These watches rank amongst the top-ten list of the world's most desirable wristwatches."*

A RE-DISCOVERED PATEK PHILIPPE MASTERPIECE

Christie's unveils a new discovery: a previously unknown example of Patek Philippe reference 2497, dating 1954 and cased in platinum. So far, only one platinum example of this model was known to the market. Now, however, a second example has re-surfaced and it will be offered for sale in Geneva for the first time since its original purchase in 1956, consigned directly from the family of the original owner who purchased in 1956. Reference 2497 is preserved in the best original condition possible for a watch of such age and shows no signs of restoration. Furthermore, it is fitted with a silvered dial featuring the most sought after Breguet numerals, virtually unknown to any other perpetual calendar wristwatch by Patek Philippe of this period. The combination of the noble platinum case, the distinguished perpetual calendar movement, the exclusive dial design and its total freshness to the market makes this masterpiece a prime candidate for Patek Philippe's hall-of-fame of the most perfect vintage wristwatches ever seen on the market.

A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF WRISTWATCHES

Coming from an important European Private Collection, the second Patek Philippe, reference 1526, dating 1949, is the only known example in stainless steel ever made of this reference.

Reference 1526 was the first perpetual calendar wristwatch ever manufactured in series by any watchmakers and was only available in yellow and rose gold. The dial, again a unique design, features applied and black painted Arabic numerals against a silvered surface, while the gold ones feature alternating Arabic and applied dot numerals. Hardly any wristwatch by Patek Philippe enjoys such a mythical position among collectors.

THE ROLEX SUBMARINER AND SEA-DWELLER COLLECTION OF A EUROPEAN GENTLEMAN

At the occasion of the centennial of Rolex, Christie's is proud to offer one of the most complete private collections of the celebrated Rolex Submariner and Sea-Dweller series ever to appear at public auction,

spanning several decades – from the 1953 to 2003. Assembled by a passionate connoisseur of these icons over a period of two decades, the watches show the development and different variants of the mythical diver’s tool. The collection is divided into three parts offered in each session of this auction (lots 21 – 28, 148 – 155, 259, 261 – 269).



From the first diving model by Rolex ever marked “Submariner” on the dial, reference 6204, presented to the public at the Basel Fair in 1954 (estimate: \$/SFr. 15,000-25,000) to the well known “James Bond” Submariner model as featured in Dr. No, reference 6538, executed in 1959 (estimate: \$/SFr. 40,000-60,000), this selection tells the story of the world’s most famous watch design. Amongst the highlights is an extremely rare reference 5517 (illustrated left), a special version of the Submariner exclusively reserved for the SBS (Royal Navy’s **S**pecial **B**oat **S**ervice) upon a specific order of the British Ministry of Defence (estimate: \$/SFr. 40,000-60,000). Furthermore, the collection also features fine examples of the celebrated Sea-Dweller, reference 1665, which introduced in 1967 the gas escape valve (estimate: \$/SFr. 8,000-12,000) and the 2003 anniversary model “*Lanette Verte*” or “*Green Bezel*”, reference 16610LV (estimate: \$/SFr. 4,000-6,000)). Many of

the watches are in excellent condition and still retain their original certificates, boxes and outer packaging.

#

Images et catalogue available upon request

See www.christies.com

Auction:

Monday 12 May 2008

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues - 33, quai des Bergues - 1201 Geneva

Three sessions: 10:00 am, 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Viewing:

Friday 9 May 2008 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 May 2008 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

International Pre-Sale Exhibitions:

Tokyo: 10-11 April 2008

Hong Kong: 14-15 April 2008

New York: 19-23 April 2008

Dubai: 27-29 April 2008