

SOTHEBY'S TO HOLD THREE-DAY COUNTRY HOUSE SALE AT SUMMERS PLACE, BILLINGSHURST, WEST SUSSEX

Sotheby's to hold their first Country House Sale of the season on September 14, 15 & 16, 1999

OVER 1280 lots belonging to the owners of nine country houses - from Cairnbulg Castle in Aberdeenshire to Marshcourt in Hampshire - are to be sold in a joint house sale at Sotheby's salerooms at Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex. The three-day sale, which is expected to fetch in the region of £1.5million, will take place on September 14-16, 1999.

The house owners, including Lord Lloyd-Webber and the Executors of the late Marquess of Bristol, are to sell pieces from their private collections ranging from a Persian electroplate charger estimated at only £20-30, to a mahogany and brass double barrelled air pump (estimate: £800-1,200), and a pair of gilt bronze mounted kingwood and marquetry secretaires à abattant (estimate: £25,000-35,000). The items will be exhibited in a marquee on the lawns of Summers Place with public viewing from Friday, September 10, 1999. The marquee will be arranged in room settings, and the rooms will be decorated thematically or according to their period.

Georgiana Bruce, deputy director of House Sales, said; "Since the sale at Hadspen House in 1996, Sotheby's have held an annual 'combined owner' sale. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for owners of country houses to sell their property within a 'country house' setting without having to host a sale. Each house is given its own section in the catalogue preceded by an introduction to the property and a brief history of the family. The sale has something for everyone, whatever their interest and however much they are intending to spend."

THE FOLLOWING HOUSES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE SALE:

Cairnbulg Castle, Aberdeenshire
Fettercairn House, Kincardineshire
Muncaster Castle, Cumbria
Bettisfield Park, Flintshire
Little Compton Manor, Oxfordshire
Wotton House, Buckinghamshire
Little Horringer Hall, Suffolk
11 Eaton Square, London
Marshcourt, Hampshire

PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE HON. MRS NICOLSON OF CAIRNBULG CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE, THE SEAT OF THE FRASERS OF PHILORTH, CHIEFS OF CLAN FRASER

Cairnbulg Castle has been the seat of the Frasers of Philorth, Lords Saltoun, for the last 800 years. The castle came into the possession of the family following the marriage of Sir Alexander Fraser of Cowie to Joanna, daughter of the Earl of Ross. The Frasers sold the castle in the late 16th century moving to a new house one mile away. The castle passed through a variety of hands including the Earl of Aberdeen who used it as a source of stone for various Aberdeenshire houses in which he kept his mistresses! Cairnbulg fell into complete disrepair until it was acquired and rebuilt by Sir John Duthie, of the Aberdeen shipping family, using granite from his wife's dowry. He built a substantial Victorian house between the square and round towers forming the house that stands today.

The Frasers bought back Cairnbulg in 1934 and installed their collection of paintings which included the distinguished group of paintings formerly at Rothiemay House in Banffshire, a property which they purchased in the 1930s. Rothiemay was the seat of the 1st Lord Saltoun when the title was created in 1445 and it subsequently passed to the Frasers through the female line.

William Duff, 1st Earl Fife (1697-1763), who made his money through banking and money lending, assembled the collection of paintings from Rothiemay house. The selection of paintings in the Sotheby's sale from Duff's collection include a portrait of Queen Mary by William Wissing which is estimated at £20,000-30,000 [Lot 919], and two contemporary portraits of Charles Howard, 3rd Earl of Carlisle (1669-1738) by Sir Godfrey Kneller Bt (1646-1723), and his eldest daughter Lady Elizabeth Howard by Charles Jervas (c1675-1739) estimated at £8,000-12,000 each [Lots 920 & 921].

Other items from Cairnbulg include two collections of prints; 12 of the Manners family and 13 of the Hervey family which carry estimates of £200-300 and £400-600 respectively [Lots 925 & 926]. There is also a good range of furniture, porcelain and silver.

THE PROPERTY OF MISS KATE SOMERVELL FROM FETTERCAIRN HOUSE, LAURENCEKIRK,
KINCARDINESHIRE

Fettercain was acquired in the mid 18th century by the Belsches family and then passed through marriage to the Forbes of Pitsligo. The Forbes family had prospered in the early 17th century when Sir William Forbes, 6th Bt. (1739-1806) became one of the most important bankers in Edinburgh. He went on the Grand Tour in 1792-3, and, despite his intentions not to, he bought a number of works of art. His eldest son, Sir William, 7th Bt. extended the family collection, buying Old Master paintings and drawings from James Irvine and it was probably he who also collected the English watercolours, the scientific instruments and the collection of minerals which have been selected for the Sotheby's sale. Sir William's son, the 8th Bt., (1804-1860) lived at Fettercain and employed William Burn to extend the 17th century house. He and his wife, Lady Harriet Kerr, daughter of Lord Lothian purchased the early 19th furniture and works of art. During the next 100 years Fettercain passed through the female line of the family. Firstly to the Lords Clinton and subsequently the Bowes-Lyon and Somervell families. Some of the objects in the sale still stood where they were first placed, most notably the 18th century wine bottles in the cellar, which are expected to fetch £2,000-3,000 [Lot 214]. The collection of items from Fettercain is eclectic and consists of English and Continental furniture, clocks, sculpture, various boxes and caskets, textiles, luggage, militaria, glass ware and paintings.

The sale includes a late 18th century hand Planetarium comprising seven painted wooden spheres which carries an estimate of £2,000-3,000 [Lot 97]. Over 70 lots of English, European and Oriental ceramics will be offered for sale. A fine set of six Wedgwood and Bentley blue jasper 'Herculaneum' oval plaques dating from around 1778, each moulded in white relief and decorated with scantily clad dancing female figures are estimated at £6,000-9,000 [Lot 256], while a large pair of Japanese Imari chargers dating from the late 17th/early 18th century, each painted at the centre with prunus and other flowers, carry an estimate of £1,200-1,800 [Lot 301].

PROPERTY REMOVED FROM MUNCASTER CASTLE, CUMBRIA BELONGING TO MRS PATRICK GORDON
DUFF PENNINGTON.

The Pennington family built Muncaster Castle in the 13th century to protect the west-coast port of Ravenglass and to control Eskdale, the ancient approach to the north of England through Cumberland. The Penningtons have dynastic links with both local and national families such as the Lowthers, the Comptons, the Grosvenors and the L'Estangers. When the Pennington line ended at the end of the last century, the estates was inherited by their cousins the Ramsdens, who took on the Pennington name. Through marriage, the original Pennington collection at Muncaster has been enhanced during this century by works of art from Bulstode Park near Gerrards Cross, the seat of the Dukes of Somerset, and from Byrams Park and the Ramsden family house in South Yorkshire.

It was during the 18th century that the Penningtons began the remodelling of the castle and Anthony Salvin finally finished it in the 1860s. The Library, a great octagon, was extended through three floors and the elegant set of late 18th century mahogany chairs, which are expected to fetch £10,000-15,000, stood beneath the collection of family portraits on the Gallery [Lot 837].

Sir John Frecheville Ramsden, who inherited Muncaster from his cousin Joslyn, 5th Lord Muncaster, in 1917, not only reorganised the family collections, but also added to them, particularly early oak furniture, English walnut furniture, tapestries and carpets. He was also a considerable collector of works of art and pottery.

The items in the Sotheby's sale from Muncaster Castle include mirrors, oak furniture, ceramics and textiles. Notable pieces include a dispatch box belonging to Lord Seymour. Lord Seymour was the 12th Duke of Somerset and MP for Okehampton in 1830. He eventually became a Lord of the Treasury and Under Secretary at the Home Department of the First Lord of the Admiralty. He was married to Jane Sheridan, the granddaughter of the actor and playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. The dispatch box is expected to fetch £300-400 [Lot 879]. Silver includes many items engraved with family crests; three small silver circular salvers engraved with the arms of Pennington impaling Lowther are estimated at £700-900.

THE PROPERTY OF SIR JOHN HANMER, Bt. FORMERLY AT BETTISFIELD PARK, FLINTSHIRE, NORTH

WALES

The Hanmer family came to prominence in the late 14th century when they were already established in North Wales. They prospered, being knighted by James I in 1603 and created Baronets in 1774. It was probably Sir Thomas, 2nd Bt. (1747-1828) and his wife Margaret Kenyon who remodelled Bettisfield Park in the 17th century in a style associated with James Wyatt. They transformed the exterior, creating a beautifully articulated façade with a central domed bay, and internally commissioned a series of rooms with exceptionally fine plaster work which framed ceiling paintings in the style of Angelica Kauffman.

His grandson, Sir John, who was made Lord Hanmer in 1872, succeeded Sir Thomas. He and his wife Georgina Chetwynd, of Grendon Hall, Warwickshire, added the great Italian belvedere tower. This was only the start of the considerable enlargement of Bettisfield Park in the late 19th century. Three further towers rose- the tallest in the Tudor style topped by a French pyramidal roof, while the other two were adorned with heraldic plaques. The Hanmers finally gave up the house in this century and the lots offered for sale by Sotheby's, once decorated the fine interiors at Bettisfield Park.

15 pieces of furniture dating from the 18th and 19th centuries are included in the sale. A set of twelve George II chairs carry an estimate of £20,000-25,000 [Lot 988], while a Dutch kingwood and inlaid buffet is estimated at £1,500-2,000 [Lot 992].

PROPERTY REMOVED FROM LITTLE HORRINGER HALL, SUFFOLK FORMERLY IN THE EAST WING, ICKWORTH BELONGING TO THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL

In 1996 the late Marquess of Bristol moved from the East Wing of Ickworth to the old Hervey family home, Little Horringer Hall situated deep inside the estate. In doing so, he selected a number of items to take with him such as paintings, pieces of furniture, family silver, and works of art and these are now offered for sale in Sotheby's forthcoming Country House sale.

Like so much at Ickworth, these items from the elegant 18th century silver to the early 19th century furniture by makers such as Banting and France and a variety of paintings relate to the unfolding patronage of the Hervey family over 200 years.

Frederick Augustus Hervey, Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry (1730-1803) built Ickworth, now looked after by The National Trust. Work commenced, and after various interruptions was completed, by the Earl's son Frederick William, 1st Marquess of Bristol. Its conception, a rotunda with a pair of long wings was unique in decorative British architecture, and remains so to this day.

The sale includes 199 pieces of table silver, dating from 1800-1896, all engraved with the Hervey crest, which is expected to fetch £5,000-7,000 [Lot 1174]. A Victorian silver presentation mug inscribed 'Stowmarket and Central Suffolk Farmers Club Challenge Cup presented by the Town of Stowmarket for the Best Pen of Ten Suffolk Ewe Lambs July 1891.' It was won 1891, 93 and 1894 by Marquis (sic) and in 1892 by Mr Henry Lingwood' is estimated at £100-150 [Lot 1176]. Other items engraved with the Hervey crest such as a George II silver oil and vinegar, a George III silver oval mustard pot and a set of six silver oblong salt cellars are estimated at £700-900, £600-900 and £1,000-1,500 respectively [Lots 1183, 1196 & 1202]. A silver jotter pad by Asprey and co engraved with the Hervey crest together with a silver torch is expected to fetch £300-500 [Lot 1186].

PROPERTY FORMERLY AT LITTLE COMPTON MANOR, OXFORDSHIRE AND 65, EATON PLACE, LONDON BELONGING TO THE DESCENDANTS OF LADY ALEXANDRA METCALFE

Lady Alexandra Curzon, the daughter of the first Marquess of Curzon, Foreign Secretary and Viceroy of India, grew up in a variety of important houses including Kedleston, Hackwood Park and Montacute.

In 1925 Lady Alexandra married Edward "Fruity" Metcalfe, who was ADC to Edward, Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII between 1921-1925. The couple bought Little Compton Manor, a country house dating from the 17th century, and furnished it with predominantly oak and walnut downstairs and lacquer and painted furniture upstairs. Lady Alexandra left the house after the war and lived in both London and Oxfordshire near to her friend the decorator, Nancy Lancaster, whose taste she greatly admired. In the 1960s, Lady Alexandra moved again, this time to Eaton Place in Belgravia.

Highlights of this collection include a large quantity of Japanned furniture such as an Anglo-Dutch early 18th century black and gilt japanned linen press decorated throughout with birds and flowers (estimate: £2,000-3,000) [Lot 1014], while an early 20th century ochre painted knee-hole dressing table decorated with Chinoiserie motifs is estimated at £800-1,200 [Lot 1017].

A set of three watercolours of Kedleston, Derbyshire, the family seat of the Curzon family, by John Chessell Buckler is expected to fetch £3,000-4,000 [Lot 1000].

PROPERTY REMOVED FROM WOTTON HOUSE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BELONGING TO MR AND MRS DAVID GLADSTONE

Wotton House lies in the Chilterns by the village of Brill in the Vale of Aylesbury.

Since the 12th century, Wotton has been associated with the Grenville family and it was Richard Grenville who commissioned the new house, built by John Keene between 1704-1714. The design is almost identical to that of Buckingham House (now Palace), which was built around the same time for John Sheffield, 1st Duke of Buckingham. The interiors of Wotton were enriched with murals by Sir John Thornhill and finely wrought iron work in the style of Tijou. By 1820, the Grenvilles had inherited, through marriage the nearby estate at Stowe, and Wotton became their secondary seat. Nevertheless, their descendent, the Marquess of Buckingham, employed Sir John Soane to remodel the interiors.

Wotton continued in the family until the 1920s after which it passed through a series of ownerships until bought and saved from demolition by the late Mrs Brunner. Mrs Brunner was born Mary Elaine Howlett and her father was the keeper of King George V's wardrobe. She spent much of her early life at St. James's Palace where she was a favourite of Queen Mary. Mrs Brunner brought her family collection of porcelain and 18th and 19th century French furniture to Wotton. Following her death last year, her heirs have embarked upon a programme of restoration, commencing with the grounds of Wotton House and continuing with the staterooms. It is hoped that this sale will help to raise funds to finance this programme.

The items featured in the sale come largely from the staterooms, in particular the saloon and dining room. Certain items, however, have been "discovered" such as two pairs of 17th century Northern European caryatid figures which were found in the basement (estimate: £4,000-6,000 and £2,000-3,000) [Lots 383 and 384]. Other objects from the house include many pieces of fine furniture such as a William and Mary walnut chest dating from 1695, which carries an estimate of £1,500-2,000 [Lot 422], and a Louis XVI kingwood marquetry globe-shaped casket that is estimated at £3,000-5,000 [Lot 430].

Other highlights from Wotton include various examples of Continental and Oriental furniture and ceramics including a giltwood salon suite in the Louis XV style which is expected to fetch £6,000-8,000 [Lot 458] and a Hua Li altar table, estimated at £800-1,200 [Lot 494].

PROPERTY REMOVED FROM 11 EATON SQUARE AND OTHER LOCATIONS BELONGING TO LORD LLOYD-WEBBER

It would be difficult to over estimate Andrew Lloyd-Webber's contribution to British artistic life during the last quarter of this century. His compositions have transformed the British Musical and his support for all sorts of cultural causes has had an impact in many fields. He has a deep-seated love of art and an appreciation of its civilising qualities. He has been an active supporter of many appeals and a constant, if reticent, patron of many projects. He is also a considerable collector, best known for his love of 19th century British art. His collection forms the stimulating background to his life, whether in London, in the country, or abroad. Recently the decision to sell his house in Eaton Square has meant that certain works are to be sold and these are now offered in the Sotheby's sale.

There is a particularly appealing group of portraits of Victorian girls which carry estimates ranging from £2,000-3,000 to £20,000-30,000 [Lots 776 -779]. Other Victorian pictures of note include a portrait of Mabel, daughter of Charles Galloway, a manufacturer of boilers and steam engines in Knutsford, by Edward John Gregory (estimate: £20,000-30,000) [Lot 781]. A self-portrait by George Frederick Watts (1817-1904) is estimated at £10,000-15,000 [Lot 780], and Barrington Bramley's portrayal of Burne-Jonesian maidens, created for Lord Lloyd-Webber, carries an estimate of £4,000-6,000 [Lot 784].

There are also handsome pieces of 19th century furniture including a wardrobe by Gillows of Lancaster to designs by Pugin, which is expected to fetch £20,000-30,000 [Lot 677]. Hall furniture, works of art from the drawing room and dining room furniture are also featured in the sale as well as a curtains and cushions [Lots 744 to 754 and 763 to 770].

Finally there are a small group of instruments on which the composer has worked, including a Yamaha synthesiser that was used by Lloyd-Webber when composing Jesus Christ Super Star and Evita (estimate: £1,000-2,000) [Lot 710]. A highly idiosyncratic chess set dating from the late 1980s, accompanied by two matching seats, is expected to fetch £2,000-4,000 [Lot 707].

PROPERTY REMOVED FROM MARSHCOURT, HAMPSHIRE

Built in 1904 by Sir Edwin Lutyens for Mr Herbert Johnson, Marshcourt relies in style on English 16th century architecture combined with local materials such as chalk, brick and flint.

In recent years, the house has been carefully and very beautifully restored and the furniture and works of art offered by Sotheby's come from the principal rooms.

The collection from Marshcourt consists of English and Continental furniture, paintings, ceramics, electroplate silver and a quantity of 19th century cloisonné figures.

Highlights from Marshcourt include a matched pair of imposing carved gilt and gesso looking-glasses dating from first half of the 19th century measuring over six feet in height (estimate: £10,000-15,000) [Lot 1054], while a pair of French gilt bronze, ebony and Boulle side cabinets dating from the mid 19th century are estimated at £5,000-8,000 [Lot 1063].

Notes to Editors:

Sotheby's South's saleroom Summers Place is a Jacobean mansion set in 40 acres of glorious West Sussex countryside and located on the edge of the South Downs. Sotheby's purchased it in 1985.

Sotheby's sale of Garden Statuary and Architectural items will also be on view within the grounds of Summers Place from Saturday, September 11, 1999 and the sale will take place on Tuesday, September 21, 1999.

THERE WILL BE A PRESS PREVIEW FOR THE SALE AT SUMMERS PLACE ON THE MORNING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1999 FROM 10.30AM

PUBLIC VIEWING (General Enquiries, tel: 01403 833670)

Friday, September 10, 1999 9.00am-4.00pm

Saturday, September 11, 1999 9.00am-4.00pm

Sunday, September 12, 1999 9.00am-4.00pm

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COUNTRY HOUSES REPRESENTED AND THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE SALE ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE PRESS OFFICE. PICTURES CAN ALSO BE SENT VIA ISDN OR E-MAIL.