

**SOTHEBY'S TO OFFER MAGNIFICENT ENGLISH FURNITURE  
FROM THE ESTATE OF ESMOND BRADLEY MARTIN ON  
OCTOBER 30, 2002**

IMPORTANT COMPLICATED WATCHES FROM THE COLLECTION OF  
ESMOND MARTIN  
TO BE OFFERED ON OCTOBER 22nd

SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY TO OFFER KNOLE,  
THE MARTIN FAMILY COUNTRY ESTATE IN OLD WESTBURY, NEW  
YORK



On October 30th Sotheby's in New York will offer Magnificent English Furniture from the Estate of Esmond Bradley Martin. This exceptional collection, acquired over the course of the 20th century, reflects the consistently high level of connoisseurship through two generations of a remarkable American family. One of the most important collections of English furniture and

decorations to come to auction, the more than 200 lots will serve as the finale of Sotheby's series of sales, exhibitions and lectures, beginning on October 19th with the sale of Property from The Estate of Ogden Phipps, entitled Renaissance to Revolution: The Decorative Arts of England and Europe. Sotheby's will also offer important complicated watches from the Martin Estate, valued at \$3.5/5 million, on October 22nd in a single-owner sale and Sotheby's International Realty will offer The Martin Family's country estate, Knole, in Old Westbury, New York. Selected furniture highlights from the Estate of Esmond Bradley Martin will be on view in Sotheby's galleries beginning October 12th and the complete sale will be on view beginning October 25th. The sale is estimated at \$4/6 million.

Simon Redburn, Sotheby's Senior Vice President of English Furniture in New York, noted "Sotheby's is delighted to offer property from Knole, the home of Esmond Bradley Martin, whose family collection has remained virtually intact since it was formed in the early decades of the 20th century. The sale will offer a rare opportunity for the discerning collector to acquire superb examples of English furniture, much of it unseen for almost a hundred years".



Esmond Martin grew up with his three brothers at Knole, the celebrated country estate which was purchased in 1910 by Esmond Bradley Martin's parents, Bradley Martin and his wife Helen Phipps, daughter of Henry Phipps, Jr., partner of Andrew Carnegie. Bradley and Helen Martin furnished Knole with impressive English furniture and their son, Esmond Martin, who raised his own family there,

added significantly to his parents' collection. Knole has remained remarkably intact since its original formation, with several pieces remaining in their original position throughout the house. The majority of the pieces in the collection was acquired in England, some from the leading firm of Lenygon and Company of Old Burlington Street, London, before the First World War. After the death of his father in the early 1960s, Esmond Bradley Martin did much to preserve the legacy of his parents, bringing Knole back to life and ensuring that the original collection was restored to its original brilliance.

Highlights from the collection include examples from the finest English furniture makers of the eighteenth century: Matthias Lock, Giles Grendey, Mayhew and Ince and Benjamin Goodison. Chief among these is a highly important carved giltwood jasper-veneered top side table, circa 1740, which is estimated to sell for \$600/800,000. The present table, for which an original manuscript design by Matthias Lock has been discovered by Sotheby's experts, is an important addition to the documented work of Lock. Although a number of examples are recorded based on the same design of a frieze carved with the mask of Hercules with a headdress of the pelt of the Nemean lion, the present example features a veneered jasper slab on a frame supported by superbly formed cabriole legs headed by finely sculpted lions' masks. Other tables based on similar designs by Lock are in the collection of Temple Newsam House, Leeds and variations have been recorded at Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire, a pair at Shugborough Hall, and a single example from Hamilton Palace, now at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The important George II white and Sienna marble chimney piece was acquired in 1911, the year after the house was purchased by the Martins, to replace the original simple drawing room mantelpiece. This features a central tablet carved with a mythological scene depicting putti and a lion, and can be compared with another example formerly in the Drawing Room at Chesterfield House, the great Palladian mansion built in 1748-49 by Isaac Ware for the 4th Earl of Chesterfield. It is estimated to sell for \$300/500,000.



Among the pieces purchased by Esmond Bradley Martin is a fine George II needlework covered walnut open armchair, circa 1745, attributed to Giles

Grendey, formerly in the collection of Percival Griffiths and another equally fine George II walnut wing armchair similarly covered in needlework. Both of these were purchased by Esmond Bradley Martin in 1964 at Sotheby's London when they were sold by the Order of the Executors of the late Sir John Prestige. The armchairs are estimated to sell for \$70/90,000 and \$50/70,000 respectively.



An important pair of George II carved giltwood pier mirrors, circa 1740, attributed to Benjamin Goodison, was displayed in the Third Floor Rotunda (Rotunda pictured page 4) at Knole. Estimated to sell for \$50/70,000, the pair features a pierced foliate and scroll-carved cresting entering a heraldic device of an animal's head, probably a unicorn. Comparisons to carved details found on the offered mirrors are identical to those found on a number of mirrors supplied by Benjamin Goodison for Frederick, Prince of Wales for Hampton Court Palace in the early 1730s.

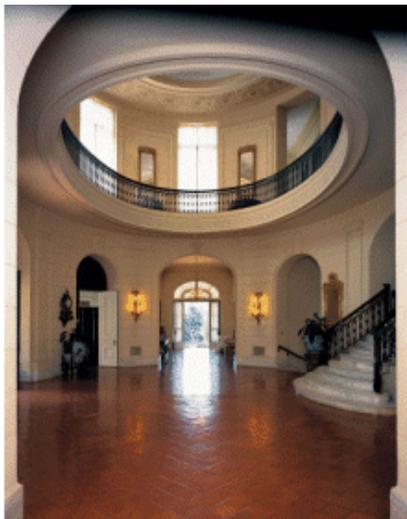
The Martin Estate also boasts an important George III marquetry inlaid and gilt-metal-mounted commode, attributed to Matthew and Ince, circa 1775. The firm of John Mayhew and William Ince was one of the most successful and enduring partnerships of cabinetmakers in the 18th century. In the early 1760s, Mayhew and Ince developed a close relationship with Robert Adam, one of the foremost architects of his era, and many of his most important clients, making furniture both to Adam's designs and their own. Surviving accounts indicate that one of their earliest collaborations with Robert Adam was at Coventry House, Piccadilly and Croome Court for the 6th Earl of Coventry. Mayhew, Ince and Adam collaborated on projects for clients such as Lord Derby and carried out major commissions including work at Burghley for the Earl of Exeter, at Bedford House for the Duke of Bedford, Chatsworth for the Duke of Devonshire, and Syon for the Duke of Northumberland. This last commission provides one of the key pieces which links the Martin commode with some five other commodes, conceived in the same manner. The present example is estimated to sell for \$200/300,000.

Additionally, the Estate of Esmond Bradley Martin will feature a separate single-owner sale of important complicated watches on October 22, 2002 in New York. This sale follows the success of Sotheby's 1981 sale of a small collection of Mr. Martin's watches. The present collection is estimated to sell for \$3.5/5 million and includes complicated watches by the finest makers of the late 19th and 20th centuries including examples by Patek Philippe, Breguet, Vacheron & Constantin and the fine English firms of Charles Frodsham, and J.W. Beneson and S. Smith & Sons.



Sotheby's International Realty will also offer for sale the Martin Family's

celebrated country estate, Knole, in Old Westbury, New York. Knole is a brilliant Palladian-style mansion designed by Carrere and Hastings, who also designed the Frick Collection and The New York Public Library, in 1903 for Herman B. Duryea, Esq. Set on approximately 32 private acres of expansive woodland, cascading lawn and magnificent French and Italian gardens, this palatial, formal structure is an elegant, preserved architectural testament to the opulent lifestyle of the turn of the century's American aristocracy. For questions regarding the sale of Knole, please contact Thomas B. Anderson on 212 606 4160.



For more information, please contact the Press Office on 212 606 7176.