

IMPORTANT WATCHES

AUCTION IN GENEVA ON NOVEMBER 16th

The Unique Patek Philippe, Ref. 3448, est. CHF / \$ 1,300,000-2,000,000*
Exceptional Pink Gold Patek Philippe, Ref. 2499, est. CHF / \$ 1,200,000-1,800,000



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Geneva, August 28th, 2008 - SOTHEBY'S forthcoming Evening Sale of Watches, to be held in Geneva on Sunday, November 16th, 2008 at 8.00pm, will showcase around 200 timepieces dating from the 17th Century to the present day.

On offer this season, will be fine examples of wristwatches by Patek Philippe, Rolex, Breguet, Audemars Piguet, IWC and Vacheron Constantin as well as outstanding pocket watches with high quality enamel cases.

Alexander Barter, Deputy Worldwide Head of Watches, Sotheby's International, said: *"Following Sotheby's May auction, which witnessed the highest results ever achieved by the Company in this category in Geneva, we are thrilled to be offering another exceptional selection of timepieces manufactured by the most desirable watchmakers"*.

Geoffroy Ader, Head of Watches, Sotheby's Geneva, added: *"Patek Philippe is one of the most desirable brands at auction. Last May, the "Trossi Leggenda", an important chronograph wristwatch formerly the property of Count Carlo Felice sold for more than CHF 2 million. With "The Unique Patek Philippe Ref. 3448" estimated at CHF / \$ 1,300,000-2,000,000 and "The Pink Patek Philippe Ref. 2499 First Series" estimated at CHF / \$ 1,200,000-1,800,000, the autumn sale includes, once again, remarkable examples of Patek Philippe's historical production"*.

THE UNIQUE PATEK PHILIPPE REF. 3448

The main highlight of this auction is an important and unique automatic perpetual calendar wristwatch by Patek Philippe with a leap-year subsidiary dial, Ref.3448. Manufactured between 1962 and 1982, reference 3448 was not only the first automatic perpetual calendar wristwatch made in series by Patek Philippe, but the first by any watch company. Illustrated in the reference book on Patek Philippe Wristwatches written by Martin Huber and Alan Banbery, this watch is described as a “unique piece”. Since standard ref. 3448 wristwatches always include a dial indicating moon-phases, the model included in this sale is unique because it does not have the usual aperture for moon-phases but, instead, an auxiliary dial displaying leap-year indications. Illustrated on the cover page of this press release, the “Unique Patek Philippe Ref. 3448” is estimated at CHF / \$ 1,300,000-2,000,000.

THE PINK PATEK PHILIPPE REF. 2499

Another very rare and exceptional wristwatch signed by Patek Philippe is a pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon-phases, 1951, Ref. 2499, First Series (est.: CHF / \$ 1,200,000-1,800,000). Reference 2499, which was manufactured between 1950 and 1985, is arguably one of the most sought after perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatches ever made by Patek Philippe. When it was launched in 1950, Patek Philippe was still the only watchmaker to manufacture such a complication. Both design and technical complexity make this watch a true object of desire. The example included in the sale is part of the first and rarest series of the model’s production, made in the 1950s. Immediately distinguishable from all later series with its crisp flat rectangular pushers, a very few examples in pink gold are known to have been made by Patek Philippe. The example to be offered for sale is especially notable for its remarkable state of preservation.



ROLEX

Following the success of Rolex wristwatches last May, most notably the sporting models, a selection of fine timepieces made by the famous Swiss brand, ranging from the Daytona to the Submariner, will be included in the sale. Among them is a stainless steel chronograph wristwatch with registers, accompanied by the original certificate and presentation case, **Rolex Daytona Paul Newman**, circa 1960, (est.: CHF / \$ 60,000-80,000); a stainless steel military automatic centre seconds wristwatch, **Rolex Submariner**, circa 1970, (est.: CHF / \$ 50,000-70,000); a stainless

steel chronograph wristwatch with registers, **Rolex Daytona**, circa 1970, (est.: CHF / \$ 20,000-30,000) and a stainless steel automatic centre seconds wristwatch, **Rolex Milgauss**, circa 1970, (est.: CHF / \$ 20,000-30,000).

POCKET WATCHES



In this section are a number of highlights including: a **gold pre-balance spring watch with a Blois enamel case decorated with floral motifs, William Clay Fecit, London, Circa 1630, Blois School, 17th Century** (est. CHF / \$ 60 000-80 000 / illustrated on the left). From 1620 to 1640 only the Blois school held the secret of painting on enamel; thus these watches were costly objects and were highly prized. It is known that Cardinal Jules Mazarin (1602-1661) and Cardinal Richelieu (1585-1642) gave such watches as handsome presents. The majority of these watches were decorated with mythological and biblical subjects, very few with flowers. Blois became famous all over Europe for its enamellers and watchmakers from England,

Switzerland and Holland sent their movements to be cased in Blois.

AUTOMATON AND ENAMEL WATCHES “FROM THE COLLECTION OF A EUROPEAN COLLECTOR”

Mainly composed of automaton and ornamental watches from the middle of the 19th century, the selection of watches from a European Collector includes a **gold rectangular singing bird box in the shape of a snuff box set with rubies and emeralds, Frères Rochat, Genève, circa 1820**. Master watchmakers from Le Brassus in the Vallée de Joux, the Rochat Brothers (Francois Elysee, Frederic and Samuel Henri), sons of David Rochat, moved to Geneva and went into business on their own. Providing *ebauches* for singing bird mechanisms at the end of the 18th century for Jaquet Droz and Leschot, the family name Rochat was well known in the making of complicated automaton pieces. Their specialization in creating singing bird boxes had established their reputation. The extreme complication and very small size of the mechanism of the singing bird box included in this sale – the bird opens its beak and turns its head when singing – is a true example of Frères Rochat’s craftsmanship. This piece is estimated at CHF / \$ 60 000-80 000.

Another examples of high craftsmanship in the world of watches included in the sale is a **gold and painted enamel single hand pendant watch, case attributed to Huaud, Geneva, circa 1680**, (est. CHF / \$ 60 000-80 000). Huaud was the best known and most prolific family of enamel painters of its time. The father, Pierre Huaud I (1612 - 1680), was a protestant who moved to Geneva, where he became a *habitant* in 1630. He finished his apprenticeship

as a goldsmith with Laurent Légaré in 1634 and soon after became Master Goldsmith. His three sons – Pierre, Jean-Pierre, Ami – became enamel painters as well. The Brandenburg Elector in Berlin was one of their clients.

Geneva Important Watches

Auction:

Sunday 16 November 2008 at 8.00pm

Public exhibition:

Friday 14 November from 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November from 10.00am to 6.00pm

* Pre-sale estimates do not include buyer's premium

IMAGES CAN BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST

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