



CHRISTIE'S

South Kensington

Holly House, Montrose
and 19 India Street, Edinburgh
Two Scottish Collections

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2002 AT 10.30 A.M.

Holly House, Montrose and 19 India Street, Edinburgh

Two Scottish Collections

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2002

AUCTION

Wednesday 2 October 2002

10.30 am

85 Old Brompton Road

London SW7 3LD

AUCTION CODE

In sending absentee bids or making enquiries,
this sale should be referred to as **HSE-9456**

VIEWING

Sunday 29 September 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Monday 30 September 9.00 am - 7.30 pm

Tuesday 1 October 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 2 October Limited Viewing

AUCTION RESULTS

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Front cover: Holly House, Montrose

Back cover: Lot 404

CONDITIONS OF SALE

This auction is subject to Important Notices, Conditions of Sale and to reserves.

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The Properties of

The late David R. Somervell Esq.

removed from Holly House, Montrose

and

A Gentleman

removed from 19 India Street, Edinburgh

CHRISTIE'S

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Holly House, Montrose

The Property of the late David R. Somervell Esq.

David R. Somervell was born in 1912, the son of Henry Somervell, 3rd son of Graham Somervell of Sorn in Ayrshire. Henry Somervell was tragically shot by bandits in Paraguay whilst riding up through South America leaving David Somervell to be brought up by a cousin, Miss 'May' Mary Olive Stirling, at Ryton, Shropshire. The absence of an immediate family and an eye for the antique became driving forces behind the future accumulation of this collection. Indeed David Somervell inherited the Stirling of Muiravonside items from his cousin's estate no doubt contributing to the sense of a 'family' collection.

This is not 'a collection' in the strictest sense, as David Somervell did not go out with the specific purpose of collecting. Whenever a family to whom he was related died out or was forced to sell up he was lucky enough to be either a beneficiary or buyer. He inherited the Graham of Airth furniture and the Graham-Stirling of Strowan items, through his cousin Mrs. George Boothby, and acquired the Houstoun of Johnstone and the Colt of Gartsherrie pieces directly from the estates. It was through his mother Alice Somervell (née Colt), that David Somervell was to acquire the fascinating collection of Napoleonica (lots 96-101).

During the 1930's a number of great country houses suffered in what was a terribly difficult period of the twentieth century and were subsequently sold along with their contents. David Somervell, in Shropshire at that time, found himself in the enviable position of being able to buy pieces from houses he knew. When the Rector of Ryton, Mr. Fraser, died, David Somervell, attending the sale of the estate, purchased a number of pieces including pictures, works of art and garden statuary from the Italian garden at Ryton Hall (see lots 259-263).

David Somervell also pursued his interest in the antique in a wider sense, running a small antiques business before the war, with other pieces naturally finding their way into his collection. With a further passion for country and period houses other works of art were procured in purchasing them with the properties, such as from the Cathcart of Carleton items from Killochan Castle, Ayrshire.

An academic knowledge about his collection was tremendously important to David Somervell. His interest in the history and previous ownership of all the family items is reflected in the limited number of unrelated pieces compared to the family or connected pieces in the collection. The collection was a representation of a wider sense of family to David Somervell fuelling the drive and the sense of duty to bring these pieces into the collection. Unfortunately a significant proportion of knowledge covering the collection has been lost with the sad passing of David Somervell. However, where possible the provenances have been printed with the lots in this catalogue. It is quite fitting that the collection, having come from various families and houses, furnished a number of different houses, moving most notably from Killochan Castle, Ayrshire to Holly House, Montrose, Angus. It was with notable energy that David Somervell took on Holly House restoring this 18th Century, and later, Scottish East Coast Merchant's town-house to its former glory when he was already in advanced years, and creating the garden aged eighty.

Henrietta Somervell



David R. Somervell Esq.
(1912-2001)



Holly House



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SCOTTISH SCHOOL, 17TH CENTURY

Portrait of James Crichton, 'Admirable Crichton', half-length, in a black cloak and a lace collar, resting a sword against his right hand and holding a book in his left

extensively inscribed 'James Crichton of Elicock + Cluny, buried at the church of San Simone/Mantua born Elicock, Dumfriesshire, August 15 1560 and died in Mantua on July 3 1582' for scholarly and courtly attainments for ideas of knighthood and honour, combined with erudition and skill in arms and eloquence and powers of reason' (left and upper right)

oil on canvas

30 x 25 in. (76.2 x 63.5 cm.)

Estimate £200-400

US\$310-410
€320-410

PROVENANCE:

Miss Alice Graham-Stirling and by descent to Mrs. George Boothby

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FOLLOWER OF JOHN RUSSELL

Portrait of a lady, bust-length, in a white dress and blue bonnet

pastel, unframed

24 x 18¼ in. (60.9 x 46.3 cm.)

Estimate £20-30

US\$31-41
€20-30

171

SCOTTISH SCHOOL, 19TH CENTURY

Portrait of Hon. Jean Rolo, wife of Captain Patrick Hunter, small bust-length, in a black dress, lace bonnet and ermine cape

oil on canvas

10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm.)

Estimate £200-300

US\$310-410
€320-410

PROVENANCE:

Miss Alice Graham-Stirling and by descent to Mrs. George Boothby

The sitter was the grandmother of Jane Hunter, second wife of Thomas James Graham-Stirling of Strowan.

(Also see lot 110)

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SIR PHILIP ALEXIS DE LASZLO. P.R.B.A. (1869-1937)

Portrait of Sir Henry Farquhar, bust-length in a brown jacket and tie and a bowler hat

signed and dated 'P. A. Laszlo/1907' (lower right)

oil on canvas

30 x 25 in. (76.2 x 63.5 cm.)

Estimate £800-1,200

US\$1,300-1,800
€1,300-1,800

PROVENANCE:

Farquhars of Gilmilnscroft, Gilmilnscroft House, Ayrshire.



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