

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | South Kensington | 25 September 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE RING COLLECTION OF JÜRGEN ABELER, WUPPERTAL

Extensive and Comprehensive Ring Collection Spanning Thousands of Years of Jewellery Design  
On Offer Over Two Auctions at Christie's South Kensington in October



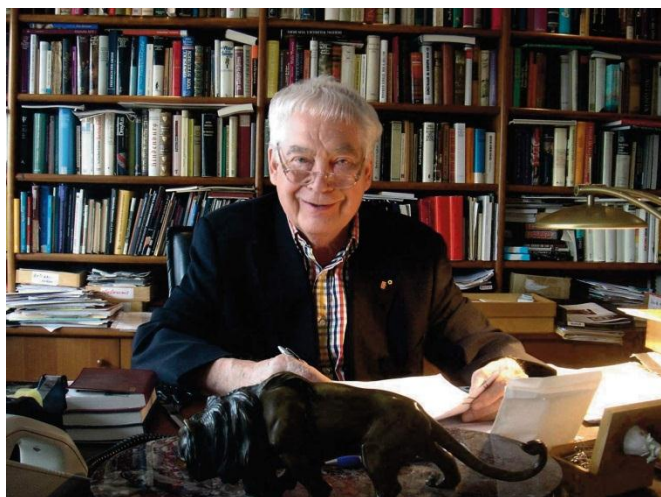
**South Kensington, London** – This October, Christie's South Kensington will be offering over 500 rings – dating from ancient Egypt and Rome through to cutting-edge 21<sup>st</sup> century designs – from the Collection of Jürgen Abeler, Wuppertal. The majority, 103 lots including several groups, will feature within the *Jewellery* auction to be held on 9 October, whilst the *Antiquities* sale on 25 October will showcase over forty important ancient rings. The collection is sure to excite collectors of all ages, budgets and styles, with many wearable designs on offer and estimates starting from only £200. All items on offer from within the Collection of Jürgen Abeler will be on view from 5 to 8 October 2012 at Christie's South Kensington saleroom on 85 Old Brompton Road.



Highlights from the collection include a 16<sup>th</sup> century signet ring of Johann Ernst von Sachsen, Julich, Kleve and Berg the great grandson of Sibylle von Julich, Kleve and Berg, sister of Anne of Kleve (Cleves) (1515-1554) wife

of Henry VIII, King England(1491-1547) *illustrated above left*. Further highlights are mourning rings for Vice Admiral Nelson, killed at the Battle of Trafalgar *illustrated above centre*, and the composer George Frideric Handel *illustrated above right*. The sale will also include a selection of modern conceptual and design rings.

### Jürgen Abeler (1933-2010)



Born in Wuppertal in 1933 into a family of watchmakers and goldsmiths Jürgen Abeler continued this tradition and was also an avid collector even as a small boy. Initially collecting cigarette cards, stamps, beer mats and minerals, this was then extended to watches in 1958 with the opening of the Wuppertal Watch museum. This private museum formed part of the family jewellers and watchmakers, but would not be confined to precise boundaries and clearly demonstrated Jürgen Abeler's passion for collecting, and eclectic tastes. There were also collections of crowns and insignia, menus, wine labels and, of course, rings; over 40,000 objects in total.

Jürgen Abeler's interest in rings stemmed from his grandmother's Christmas present in 1955. The present was Heinz Battke's recent book on the history of the rings, "*Geschichte des Ringes in Beschreibung und Bildern*". Battke, primarily an artist, was also an enthusiastic collector of rings. Inspired by Heinz Battke, and later to acquire the author's own collection, Jürgen Abeler would collect rings from myriad sources and locations – auctions, antique shops, private hands and foreign lands. The result was a collection ranging from Roman and Egyptian examples to rings highlighting 21<sup>st</sup> century design. In Jürgen Abeler's own words he wished to create "... a coherent, comprehensive overview about the whole topic up to (the) modern day."

These rings were exhibited at the Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus Hanau from the 9<sup>th</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 in the exhibition: *Sammlung Abeler, Wuppertal, Geschichte und Symbolik des Ringes aus vier Jahrtausenden – Vom Siegelring zum Liebesring*.

---

**PRESS CONTACT: Leonie Pitts | +44 (0)20 7752 3121 | [lpitts@christies.com](mailto:lpitts@christies.com)**

**Please click here for the complete eCatalogue**

#### **AUCTIONS:**

##### **Jewellery**

**Including the Ring Collection Jürgen Abeler, Wuppertal**

9 October 2012 at 11am

Viewing 5-8 October

##### **Antiquities**

25 October 2012 at 11am & 2pm

Abeler highlights on view 5-8 October

Full sale viewing 20-24 October

#### **Christie's South Kensington**

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £300. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

# # #

*High resolution images and further information available on request*

Visit Christie's Website at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

### FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:



### CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

**Monday: 9.00am – 7.30pm**

**Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm**

**Saturday & Sunday: 11.00am - 5.00pm**

**WWW.CHRISTIES.COM**

Prices do not include buyers' premium