

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | King Street | 28 June 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A PRE-WAR TIME CAPSULE - THE LIBRARY FORMED BY A FAMILY ACROSS THREE GENERATIONS



UNKNOWN WORK BY CATHERINE D'AMBOISE, WOMAN AUTHOR OF THE FRENCH RENAISSANCE, DISCOVERED BY SPECIALIST TEAM AT CHRISTIE'S

UNIQUE COMPLETE COPY OF MIDDLE ENGLISH TEXT
THE MIRROR OF RECLUSES FROM c.1414-22

WORKS OF PLATO, BOUND FOR KING CHARLES II & DE-ACCESSIONED BY
WHAT IS NOW THE BRITISH LIBRARY IN 19TH CENTURY

MOST IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF 'EMBLEM BOOKS' IN PRIVATE HANDS

PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN, EXQUISITELY ILLUMINATED MISSAL BY
MASTER WORKING FOR DUKE OF AUSTRIA

A PRISTINE HISTORY OF ANCIENT WORLD
ILLUMINATED FOR KING OF NAPLES

FIRST EDITION OF *ART OF NAVIGATION* BY
TUDOR MYSTIC & SCHOLAR JOHN DEE

King Street, London – A handful of unknown, rare and largely forgotten texts have been uncovered by specialists at Christie's cataloguing a library formed by three generations of a prominent family from the north-west of England. Stored in the principal rooms of a grand country house, the 375 lots of books and manuscripts were acquired by successive generations of the Bright, Thompson and Yates Families from the start of the 1800s until the 1940s. This remarkable collection entitled *Yates, Thompson and Bright: A Family of Bibliophiles* includes a

handful of books that were unknown or of which only incomplete versions were previously known. Also comprising the most important private collection of emblem books ever formed, highlights include books and manuscripts from England, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands dating from the mid-13th to the mid-20th Century. The auction will be held in London on July 16 and is expected to sell for around £3million.

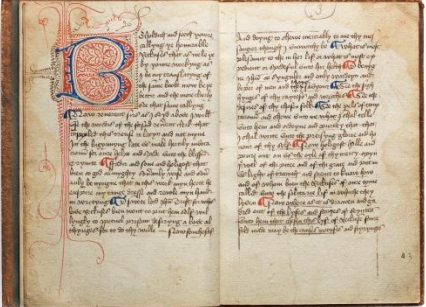
Thomas Venning, Head of Christie's Book Department in London, commented: "We are incredibly fortunate to have been able to handle, for a short time, this unique library which is a testament to the power of images in books – from the illuminated manuscripts to the definitive library of emblem books, this collection has great visual appeal. The public viewing will give us all a last glimpse into this remarkable succession of men who inherited a passion for books and manuscripts from one another. Their importance will perhaps only be properly recognised after the sale when we have all had a chance to absorb the discoveries made and the provenances revealed which so far include Charles II, the King of Naples and the highest ranks of the French nobility."

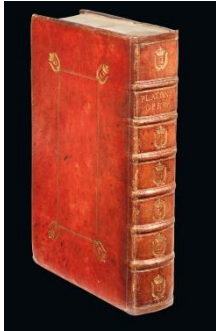
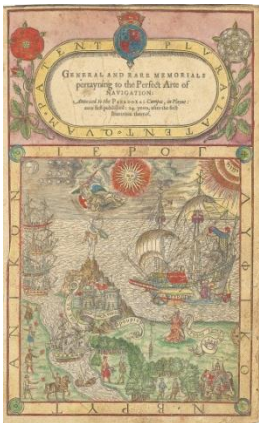


The family were part of the mercantile, banking and shipping elite in Liverpool and their interest in book collecting began with Joseph Brook Yates (1780–1855) who, in 1812, was one of the founders of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society. He left his books to his grandsons, the eldest of whom Henry Yates Thompson (1836–1928) was bequeathed the rich store of ten medieval manuscripts and the second, Samuel Ashton Thompson Yates (1842–1903) was a curate in Lytham and founded the Thompson-Yates medical laboratory at Liverpool University with almost 2,000 research volumes. The collection then passed to Allan Heywood Bright (1862–1941) who had lived at Thingwall Hall in Knotty Ash (his portrait shown here). His father was an antiquarian and scholar and a close friend of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Most recently the books were in the family home in Herefordshire where they were kept in the principal rooms, including the library. Whilst the family were aware

that the library included some important works, no-one was prepared for the re-discoveries made during the cataloguing process. They had remained largely undisturbed since Allan Heywood Bright's death 70 years ago.

Sale highlights:

	Lot 11: THE MISSAL OF LUDWIG OF TECK A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN WORK BY THE MASTER OF THE PRAYERBOOK OF ALBRECHT V, DUKE OF AUSTRIA and the only one in private hands Vienna, c.1430-35 Estimate: £500,000-800,000
	Lot 69: THE COMPLETE SERIES OF 13 ORIGINAL DRAWINGS FOR THE EMBLEMATA EVANGELICA BY HANS BOL Illustrations of the 12 months in the series denoted by zodiac signs and the original frontispiece, with religious scenes depicted in Flemish landscape Estimate: £250,000-350,000
	LOT 17: LEONARDO BRUNI, HISTOIRE DE LA PREMIERE GUERRE PUNIQUE Paris, c.1450 A 15th C HUMANIST UNDERSTANDING OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD With rich illuminations including the Carthaginians riding elephants Estimate: £150,000-250,000
	Lot 12 THE MIRROR OF RECLUSES IN MIDDLE ENGLISH England, c.1414-1422 The only complete copy of the text and providing the date it was composed (the incomplete version is in the British Library) Estimate: £50,000-80,000

	Lot 323 EDITIO PRINCEPS OF THE WORKS OF PLATO BOUND FOR KING CHARLES II De-accessioned in 19th century by what is now the British Library Estimate: £40,000–60,000
	Lot 277: JOHN DEE, THE PERFECT ARTE OF NAVIGATION London, 1577 A rare coloured copy of the first work to use the term 'Brytish Impire' and proposing the taxation of foreign fishermen in British waters, with Dee's coded signature Estimate: £20,000–25,000

PRESS CONTACT:

Emma Cunningham | 0207 389 3664 | ecunningham@christies.com

The complete e-Catalogue is available to view online www.christies.com/calendar

Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totalled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totalled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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

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