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Tremendous interest in the Antiquorum thematic auction dedicated to wristwatches of “Timeless Beauty” ; 100% of value sold !

Geneva, Sunday, October 24th, 2004. Very keen interest was shown for this year’s thematic sale “Timeless Beauty” Spectacular Wristwatches” held in Geneva on Sunday. With an excellent global result of almost SFr. 14,000,000 (\$11,000,000) Antiquorum continued its streak of successful auctions held during its’ 30th anniversary year of 2004.

Mr. Osvaldo Patrizzi, chairman and founder of Antiquorum, commented on this sale as “the first time an auction dedicated only to wristwatches was able to draw such an interest”. The Noga Hilton Ballroom was almost full, and keen collectors were bidding over the phone and on-line from around the globe; Moscow, Peking, Taiwan, San Francisco, New York and from all over Europe.

These splendid watches were being bought mainly by private collectors, but several museums and public collections were nevertheless able to acquire much sought-after pieces.

Stars of the sale

The sale’s top lot was Lot 122, a Patek Philippe & Cie, Geneva, Ref 3449, manufactured in three examples only in 1961, which made an astounding at SFr. 1,766,000 / \$ 1,413,000.

Lot number 254 Patek Philippe & Cie, Geneva”Luminous Dial” the single button chronograph in yellow gold, made in 1927, achieved SFr. 1,106,000 / \$ 885,000 / € 714,000.

Lot number 119, Patek Philippe & Cie, Geneva made in platinum, ref. 1579 produced in 1946, achieved SFr. 1,238,000 / \$995,000.

Lot number 252 Patek Philippe & Cie, Geneva, ref. 2499, first series, made in 1953 was sold for SFr. 381,200 / \$ 305,000.

The interest in collecting Rolex watches was further confirmed in this sale with several watches going for high prices; such as lot number 243, the very fine and rare “Ferrari Red” Rolex Oyster Cosmograph produced in the 1970s which was sold for SFr. 300,000 / \$ 240,000

The Panerai Museum acquired the interesting lot number 239 ; an extremely rare set of five military diving instruments; wristwatch, compass, depth gauge, Morse code devise and diving knife, made for the Italian Navy Commandos, for doubled its estimate at SFr. 100,050 / \$ 80,000.

Two versions of the so-called “Jean-Claude Killy” model made good results; lot number 220 a Rolex Oyster Chronograph Anti-Magnetique in 18K yellow gold, produced in the 1950s that was sold at SFr. 180,000 / \$ 144,000 and lot number 241 an Oyster Chronograph Antimagnetic, Ref. 6236 in stainless steel produced in the 1950 made SFr. 150,000 / \$ 120,000 Lot number Patek Philippe & Cie, Geneva, Ref 3449

Lot Number 215, a Patek Philippe & Cie. Genève, “Calatrava” ref. 570, made an amazing SFr. 44,000 / \$ 35,000 double its original estimate !

Lot 204; a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Date “Submariner” superlative chronometer had a tremendous interest and bidding finally stopped at SFR. 23,000 / \$ 19,000 four times its original estimate.

The Vacheron Constantin wristwatches in the sale made excellent prices further establishing the recent collectors’ demand for the brand.

Two watches both produced in 1945 were sought after; Lot 114 “two-tone dial” was sold for SFr. 26,600 / \$ 22,000 and lot number 115 a fine square button chronograph sold for SFr. 34,000 / \$ 28,000.

All in all, it was a very good sale !

(Exchange rate SFr/\$ 1.25)

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Antiquorum’s next auction: Geneva, November 13 – 14 , 2004

*Important Collectors’ Watches, Wristwatches,
Clocks, Horological Tools & Documents*