

ARTCURIAL

BRIEST - POULAIN - F. TAJAN

IMPORTANT JEWELLERY & WATCHES

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2008

4:30PM & 8PM

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2008

8PM



Viewing

Thursday 4 – Sunday 7 December 2008, 11am – 7pm

Since 2005 **ARTCURIAL Briest – Poulain – F. Tajan**, under **Maître François Tajan**, have organized sales of Jewellery and Collectors' Watches, and are now a major player on the international market – not only in **Paris** and **Monte Carlo**, but throughout Europe, where ARTCURIAL Briest – Poulain – F. Tajan stage valuation days and sale previews before prestige auctions.

Our **important three-session sale** on **Monday 8 & Tuesday 9 December 2008**, organized by **specialist Julie Valade** and **experts Thierry Stetten** and **Romain Réa**, will give connoisseurs and collectors the chance to admire a wide range of historically important and visually stunning jewellery in our rooms at the Hôtel Marcel-Dassault.



Contact presse : agence 14 septembre.
35, rue de Trévisse, 75009, Paris. T/F : 01 55 28 38 28/29
Laetitia Vignau and Laurent Denize d'Estrées
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IMPORTANT JEWELLERY

Dazzling jewellery, selected according to the firm's traditional standards of excellence, will take visitors to the Hôtel Marcel-Dassault on a journey through time.



Lot 469

Grey-gold ring with pear-cut yellow diamond, set with brilliant-cut diamonds.
Weight of diamond: 7.02ct.

Estimate:

€65,000 / 70,000



Lot 484

Platinum ring with cushion-cut sapphire flanked by two triangular diamonds.
Weight of sapphire: 35.03ct.

Estimate:

€85,000 / 100,000



Lot 472

Yellow-gold ring with cushion-cut sapphire flanked by diamonds.
Weight of sapphire: 6.83ct (Kashmir origin; no sign of heat treatment)

Estimate:

€95,000 / 100,000

A gold, silver and diamond bracelet with large, briolette-cut diamond tells the Russian tale of actress Elisabeth Ballea, and has remained in her family until today (lot 496, est. €80,000 / 100,000).

A yellow gold and platinum river necklace, complete with its original presentation case and the mounts enabling it to be transformed into a diadem, brooches, hair or bodice pins, evokes the lifestyle of the aristocracy and wealthy bourgeoisie at the end of the 19th century, when ladies were expected to change both dresses and jewellery from one social engagement to the next (lot 31, est. €35,000 / 38,000).



Lot 496

Important silver, yellow gold & diamond bracelet with large, briolette-cut yellow diamond.
Weight of diamond: approx. 20ct. Length: 19cm - Weight: 15.4g.

Russia, c.1900. In presentation case of court jeweller Fried. Kehli (St Petersburg).

HISTORY: This sophisticated bracelet was owned by the famous actress Elisabeth Balletta, who caught the eye of the Tsarevich, the future Nicolas II, when performing at the Imperial Theatre in St Petersburg, before enjoying a lengthy liaison with his favourite uncle, Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich (1850-1908), High Admiral in the Russian Imperial Fleet and a noted connoisseur of the fairer sex. The Grand Duke was a regular customer of Rue de la Paix jewellers and famed for his generosity. He was one of the first members of the Russian imperial family to visit Cartier, in 1899. Elisabeth Balletta performed in Russia for 25 years before settling in Paris. Her luxurious jewel case, including the many Fabergé items given to her by the Grand Duke, was the talk of society. Elisabeth Balletta sold her jewels according to financial necessity; their quality led to fierce competition among leading collectors when they appeared at auction.

PROVENANCE: Elisabeth Balletta and her descendants. See reproduction of painting by Tade Styka (1889-1954) portraying Elisabeth Balletta wearing this bracelet.

Estimate: €80,000 / 100,000



Lot 31

Yellow gold & platinum rivière with 45 graduated old-cut diamonds.
Weight of diamonds: approx. 20ct.

Late 19th century.

In Maison Rouvenat case with initials GG containing various mounts, two of them set with rose- and brilliant-cut diamonds, for use as diadem, brooches, hair or bodice pins.

This is a striking illustration of the lifestyle of the aristocracy and wealthy bourgeoisie in the late 19th century, when dresses and jewellery were designed to be transformed according to social occasion. Clothing and jewellery were subject to a strict code of etiquette: diamond barrettes or brooches were to be worn during the day; hair pins or aigrettes for visits to the theatre; and necklaces or diadems at balls.

Each diamond on the necklace is mounted on gold wire, enabling it to be changed easily from one element to another, without need for a jeweller.

It is rare for cases from this period to have survived intact, as the value of the diamonds led to the loss of the mounts due to inheritance and changes in fashion or use.

Estimate: €35,000 / 38,000

A variety of cuts and metalwork offers a choice between Belle Epoque finery, Art Nouveau curves and Art Deco rigour.



Lot 289b

Art Deco-style grey gold ring with brilliant-cut diamond set in a tiny, rectangular onyx plaque held in place by six square settings, each with a brilliant-cut diamond.
Weight of diamond: 5.08ct

Estimate: €80,000 / 85,000



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Lot 495

Belle Epoque platinum & grey-gold articulated rivière *en draperie* with rows of old-cut diamonds linked by ribbon-bows set with rose-cut diamonds (c.1900).

Weight of central diamond: 5.33ct

The garland style, beloved of French and British aristocracy and America's haute bourgeoisie, derived from the decorative repertoire of the 18th century, reflecting fascination for a period that was readily evoked in balls on either side of the Atlantic.

In 1895, to meet the demand of this well-heeled clientele, Cartier – swiftly followed by other European jewellers – began to design refined jewellery based on albums of 18th century ornaments. Until around 1907 dog collars, bodice ornaments and large necklaces would be adorned with garlands, laurel-leaf crowns and diamond bows, tassels and lace, as this necklace illustrates.

Estimate: €60,000 / 70,000



Lot 487
OSCAR HEYMAN BROTHERS

Platinum bracelet designed as a highly flexible band, with six rows of square diamonds between two rows of brilliant-cut diamonds.

Maker's mark:
Oscar Heyman Brothers 504475

Weight of the 348 baguette diamonds:
approx. 42ct

Estimate: €20,000 / 25,000



Lot 28
G.FOUQUET

Necklace with oval platinum & turquoise cabochon pendant, framed by yellow sapphires.

Signed G.Fouquet 12658 17087;
maker's mark

Art Deco period

Estimate: €13,000 / 16,000



Lot 269

Late 19th century yellow gold brooch *en trembleuse*, set with old-cut diamonds, the largest positioned centrally.

With barrette enabling the central motif to be worn separately, or as a hair-pin.

Estimate: €8000 / 10,000



Lot 25

LALIQUE

Yellow-gold Art Nouveau ring with water-opal cabochon flanked by four pink enamel leaves. Traces of the *Lalique* signature.

Estimate: €1000 / 1200



Lot 26

LALIQUE

Yellow-gold Art Nouveau ring with oval aquamarine & enamelled pine-cones/ pine-needles.

Estimate: €600 / 800



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The watches to be offered also reflect the excellence constantly sought by **ARTCURIAL Briest – Poulain – F. Tajan**. During the sale's final session, a unique, grey-gold, heart-shaped watch by Chopard will provide a sumptuously illustration of the ties between jewellery and watches.



Lot 709
CHOPARD
Coeur de Diamond

Unique timepiece (c.2000)

Exceptional grey-gold, heart-shaped wrist-watch with 10ct rose-cut diamond glass. Bezel set with baguette-cut rubies outside brilliant-cut diamonds. Heart-shaped dial set entirely with brilliant-cut diamonds. Quartz movement.

Weight of diamonds: 2.28ct - weight of rubies: 13.67ct

Estimate: €320,000 / 350,000

The sale includes a wide variety of watches, ranging from the refined aesthetics and sophisticated mechanisms of the **AUDEMARS PIGUET Tourbillon** to the stylish, sporting appeal of the **Chronofighter Oversize Commander** by **GRAHAM**.



Lot 707
AUDEMARS PIGUET
Tourbillon N° 51 (c.1990)

Rare platinum wrist-watch with skeleton dial and automatic movement. Sold with its splendid presentation-case. Audemars Piguet was the first manufacture to produce a tourbillon for an automatic movement with oscillating mass.

Estimate: €30,000 / 50,000



Lot 535
HUBLOT
Big Bang Tantalum (c.2007)

Fine, rare tantalum chronograph. Automatic movement. Signed dial, case & movement. Sold with original box & papers.

Estimate: €8,000 / 1 200



Lot 536
GRAHAM
Chronofighter Oversize Commander (c.2008)

Fine, large titanium chronograph. Automatic movement. Sold with original presentation-case.

Estimate: €3000 / 5000



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Most of the top watchmakers will be represented at the sale, many by exceptional and legendary models.

ROLEX connoisseurs and collectors will have a choice of watches from every period – from the **Rolex Prince** of the 1930s and the **Bubble Back** from the '40s, down to the **Rolex President tour gold** of the '90s, not forgetting even rarer timepieces made in tribute to Paul Newman and Jean-Claude Killy.



Lot 589

ROLEX
Daytona PAUL NEWMAN,
ref. 6262/6239 (c.1968)

Rare steel chronograph.
Exotic cream dial; black sub-dials with white detailing.
Mechanical movement, Valjoux calibre 727.
Steel Oyster bracelet 78350 / 557.

Estimate: €40,000 / 60,000



Lot 590

ROLEX
JEAN CLAUDE KILLY,
ref. 6038 (c.1959)

Rare waterproof tricompax chronograph.
Mechanical movement, Valjoux calibre 72C.

Estimate: €45,000 / 65,000



Lot 636

ROLEX
Daytona PAUL NEWMAN,
ref. 6265, N° 6581487 (c.1980)

Superb, rare gold chronograph.
Handsome cream dial with three black sub-dials with black detailing.
Mechanical movement, Valjoux calibre 727.
Gold oyster bracelet n° 7205 & clasp signed Rolex.
Sold with second dial, Daytona Oyster Cosmograph; black dial with three gold sub-dials.

Estimate: €90,000 / 130,000

Mythical complications by **BREGUET**, such as the **Tourbillon** and **Perpetual Calendar**, will also be offered.



Lot 627

BREGUET
Platinum skeleton tourbillon, ref. 3355

Magnificent platinum wrist-watch with tourbillon. Rhodium-plated skeleton movement, hours & minutes off centre, Breguet blued-steel hands, sapphire case-back. Mechanical manual movement with 1-minute rotating tourbillon. Sold with its Breguet presentation-case.

Estimate: €50,000 / 70,000



Lot 540

BREGUET
Perpetual Calendar, ref. 3787, N° 2903 (c.2000)

Rare, fine gold Astronomical wrist-watch with perpetual calendar. Automatic Movement. Sold with original papers & imitation-burr presentation-case.

Estimate: €1200 / 1500

A very fine ensemble of **CARTIER** watches, reflecting the brand's technical and aesthetic know-how, ranges from the gentle femininity of a rare minute-repeater travel-clock to the determinedly modern, masculine look of the *American Tank*.



Lot 605

CARTIER
American Tank, Dual Time, N°A106004/196-90 (c.1990)

Fine, rare, curved rectangular gold wrist-watch. Two mechanical movements. Sold with original presentation-case, certificate & papers.

Estimate: €13,000 / 15,000



Lot 607

CARTIER
Minute Repeater (c.1910)

Rare, handsome, mauve- and white-enamelled silver travel-clock; gold bezel with enamelled pearls; agate ring & stand. Mechanical 8-day movement with alarm and hour-, quarter- and minute-repeater activated by white sapphire cabochon push-piece.

Estimate: €10,000 / 12,000



Lot 599

CARTIER
Louis Cartier American Tank (c.1989)

Fine, rare gold wrist-watch. Automatic movement. Sold with presentation-case & papers.

Estimate: €4300 / 4800



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Fans of **JAEGER-LECOULTRE's** savoir-faire and highly original designs will also be catered for, with rare models like the **Reverso**, **Soixantième** and **Minute Repeater**, or the **Atmos** designed by a genius – **J.L. Reutter**.



Lot 666

JAEGER LECOULTRE
Minute Repeater, N° 332/500
(c.1996)

Very rare, pink-gold reversible wrist-watch with minute-repeater.

Mechanical movement, calibre 943, activated by fluted screw opposite the crown.

Sold with original case & papers.

Estimate: €18,000 / 25,000



Lot 706

JAEGER LECOULTRE
Reverso 60ème, N° 251/500
(c.1991)

Fine, rare, 14ct pink-gold reversible wrist-watch commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Reverso.

First of six models produced in series of 500.

Mechanical movement, calibre 824, with bridges visible through sapphire case-back.

Sold with original case.

Estimate: €15,000/18,000



Lot 587

ATMOS
J.L. REUTTER
N° 2917 (c.1930)

Extremely rare gilt-brass & glass-cased Art Deco "atmosphere" clock. 'Dog collar' mechanical perpetual movement.

Atmos clock given to Ch. Ed. Guillaume (father of Maurice Guillaume) by its inventor J-L Reutter (cf letter from Maurice Guillaume dated 14 April 1971).

The Neuchâtel engineer Jean-Léon Reutter devoted his life to research into *perpetuum mobile*. In 1928 he presented the prototype of a revolutionary clock powered by tiny atmospheric variations. A few years later Manufacture Jaeger-Lecoultré transformed this brainstorming idea into a precise and reliable timepiece, based on changes of temperature – with a change of just one degree enough to accumulate enough energy to power the Atmos for over 48 hours.

Estimate: €10,000 / 15,000

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