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Press Release

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ARMENIAN WORKS OF ART FOR SALE AT SOTHEBY'S

A silver-gilt cup with an Armenian inscription and dated 1799 is just one of several items of Armenian origin in the sale of Islamic Works of Art, Carpets and Textiles at Sotheby's London on Wednesday 13 April at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm (lot 552 - estimate £2,000/3,000).

Armenian works of art have recently attracted considerable attention as was shown by the success of a sale of Armenian ceramics at Sotheby's in London last October.

Pieces of inscribed and dated metalwork are well represented in this auction, an example being a small gilt-copper chalice which has a three line cursive Armenian inscription recording its gift to the Church of St Thomas in New Julfa, Isfahan, a church that no longer exists (lot 554 - estimate £5,000/£7,000). Another example is an inscribed brass candlestick dedicated to the Church of St Gregory the Illuminator in Kayseri in 1919 (lot 555 - estimate £800/1,200).

Some other interesting pieces include a late 19th century parcel-gilt and niello silver belt bearing an inscription and Armenian initials on the reverse (lot 572 - estimate £300/500), a pair of West-Armenian silver comb cases, dated 1891 A.D. (lot 575 - estimate £500/700) and an Armenian Book of Psalms from San Lazzaro, Venice, dated 1867 (lot 574 - estimate £300/400).

Ceramics produced by the Armenian potters at Kütahya are easily recognisable by their brightly coloured surfaces boldly painted in opaque yellows, greens, blues, purples and reds. There are several such pieces in this auction including egg-shaped hanging ornaments, pots, jugs, dishes, cups, tiles and bottles, all at affordable prices. A mid-18th century pottery jug, with a globular body and tall neck and decorated in polychrome with panels of

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floral motifs and stylized leaves, has an estimate of £1,000/1,500 (lot 538), while a small vividly painted Kütahya pottery cup is expected to fetch in the region of £200/400 (lot 541).

In a sale of Ancient, Islamic, British and Foreign Coins on March 24th, there are a number of early Umayyad silver dirhams from the mint of Armenia including an extremely rare example struck in A.H. 82/A.D. 701 (lot 295 - estimate £1,000/1,200).

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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