

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AUCTIONEERS PUT HISTORIC ROYAL PARKS PRINT UP FOR SALE -
CAN IT BE KEPT IN BRITAIN?**

An eleventh-hour appeal has been launched to save for the nation a unique panorama print, created nearly 200 years ago, depicting historic scenes in London's Regent's Park. The work of art, which is hand-coloured and which measures 3 inches high by 18 feet long (103 x 5627mm), was created in 1831 and its survival in Britain is a great rarity today.

The print, entitled '*Panoramic View Round The Regent's Park*' is the result of the famous collaboration between leading 19th century engraver Richard Morris and the renowned publisher Rudolph Ackermann.

Thirteen fragile strips of fine linen make up the delicate work, which provides art historians and park enthusiasts alike with an intriguing glimpse of life in the parks 170 years ago – in the form of a sweeping 360-degree panorama, showing Primrose Hill and Hampstead, the then newly-built Nash terraces and London Zoo – during the reign of William IV.

Sara Lom, Director of The Royal Parks Foundation, a registered charity, said today:

"We understand that the identity of the current owner is a closely-guarded secret and that this historic work of art is expected to fetch a four- or five-figure sum and it would be a tremendous loss to the nation if it were to go overseas. We are desperately hoping that a British buyer may step forward to secure the panorama for Britain.

"One of the charitable objectives of The Royal Parks Foundation is to protect the heritage of the Parks for future generations and to share their famous history with the public. This work, by Richard Morris, is one of the finest examples of the parks' artistic heritage currently held in Britain – and that is where we want it to stay, for everyone to enjoy.

"We are currently setting up a new Royal Parks Archive, which will be accessible to the general public. It will contain maps, paintings, postcards and a wide variety of other historic memorabilia. We hope that this Richard Morris panorama will be a major exhibit within the archive."

A black-and-white copy of the work is housed at The British Library in London and there is a second print of the panorama thought to be held in archives in Washington, USA. But the aquatint coloured print going on sale at Christie's is a great rarity in Britain today.

The Royal Parks Foundation hopes that a British collector may bid for the print at the sale, to be held at 2pm tomorrow (WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16TH) at Christie's King Street Saleroom in London, and that the buyer may then consider donating or loaning the work to The Royal Parks Foundation for display to the public.

A Royal Parks Foundation spokesman added: "Millions of British and overseas visitors enjoy the capital's eight Royal Parks every year. The Richard Morris print, were it to be secured for the nation, would be sure to become a major tourist attraction".

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For further information please contact Sara Lom (Director) Royal Parks Foundation or Clare Bowen (Project Manager) on 020 7298 2139 or email cbowen@royalparksfoundation.org

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Full colour pdf of the panorama available from Matthew Paton at Christie's Press and PR: 020 7389 2965

The Royal Parks are amongst the capital's greatest attractions. Visited by 30 million people every year, they offer 5,000 acres of personal space amidst the rush and bustle of the city. The eight Royal Parks are: Regent's Park, Hyde Park, St James's Park, The Green Park, Kensington Gardens, Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park.

The Royal Parks Foundation is a registered charity, launched in May 2003, to help protect The Royal Parks and enhance them for future generations to enjoy.

Viewing times at Christie's: Weds 16 November 9am to 12 noon
www.christies.com/LotFinder/search/LotDetail.asp?sid=&intObjectID=460188