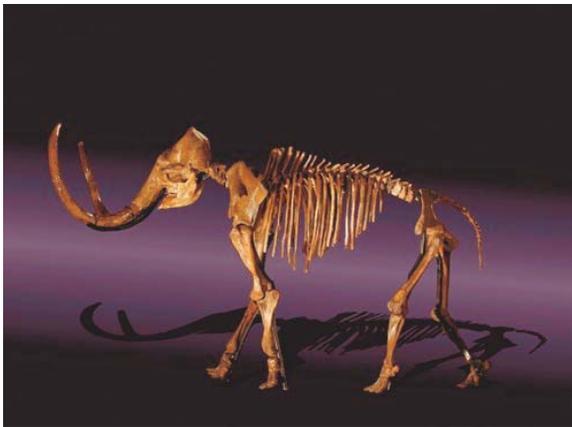


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## A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES : INTO THE REALMS OF PALEONTOLOGY

16 April 2007

**Paris** – The next sale of Furniture and Works of Art will have the distinctive feature of dedicating a chapter to the study of Paleontology. For the very first time in Christie's Paris, a veritable "cabinet of curiosities" will be offered for sale, where one will be able to delight in the rare objects from distant ages such as skeletons and fossils which will be showcased alongside and other natural wonders.



Mammoth  
Estimate : €150.000-180.000



Dinosaur Oviraptor Phyloceratops' egg  
Estimate : €4.000-5.000



Fossil Angel Fish  
Estimate : €50.000-80.000

### FOSSILS: THE COLLECTION OF DOCTOR JEAN BOUHANNA

For over sixty years Doctor Bouhanna has been building his remarkable collection which today constitutes one of the most important collections of its kind in the world. The collection estimated between €150.000 and €200.000, it consists of thirty extremely rare and highly sought after bird and fish fossils, such as the "angel fish" estimated between €50.000 and €80.000. This rarity dates from the Tertiary Period, the Inferior Eocene Age (approximately 50 million years ago) and belongs to the Monte Bolca site in the north of Italy. These fossils are renowned for their high degree of preservation and their esthetic quality. This specimen reveals a deep body, laterally compressed, with a triangular dorsal fin and ventral fins. There are only five known examples of this species in the world, and this one is the last in private hands.

## **RUSSIAN TRILOBITES**

Equally fascinating is the private collection of Trilobites, all coming from Russia that date from 400 million years ago. The Trilobites were ocean dwelling arthropods. These types were endemic of Russia and the majority of these pieces that were discovered at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but were hidden during the Soviet Revolution. They reappeared in 1965 and lots such as the *Cheirurus exell* Trilobite, estimated at €12.000 - €14.000 are today in great demand.

## **LARGE MAMMALS**

The most spectacular aspect of this sale will be the exhibition and auction of several large mammals from the Quaternary Period. These include the complete skeleton of a Siberian mammoth armed with tusks of an impressive size. Standing at 3, 80 m and measuring over 4, 80 m in length, this mammoth is a prime example of this period. This species was the contemporary of Neanderthal man during the mid Paleolithic Period and that of Homo sapiens during the late Paleolithic Period (estimate: €100.000 – 150.000).

In addition a woolly rhinoceros and a cave bear as well as other prehistoric species will make up this magical natural history museum. The rhino skeleton (estimate: €50.000–65.000) can be considered as much a piece of art as it is a rare fossil.

## **METEORITES AND OTHER CURIOSITIES**

One will be able to discover rare pieces from far flung places such as the extraordinary meteorite originating from Russia which weighs over 150 kg. It contains a myriad of semi precious stones and shows rare marks from its entry into the atmosphere (estimate: €90.000- 120.000). Another rarity is the “*bezoar*” a strange pearl that forms in the stomach of certain herbivores, that was very popular amongst 18th century collectors and which the princes of Habsburg consumed in great faith as a remedy against melancholy (estimate: €15.000-25.000).

**Viewing :** 13 - 16 April 2007

**Sale :** 16 April 2007

**Christie's – 9 avenue Matignon – 75008 Paris**

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's on the Web at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)