

Christie's Jewelry Auction Hits 15-Year High

Auction sales for jewelry have been strong recently. In October, Christie's reported its highest sales in fifteen years, with four separate sales netting \$49 million.

Magnificent Jewels from the Collection of Ellen Barkin, comprised of 103 lots, was the most publicized and successful. The sale raised \$20.4 million, making it the largest sale by a single owner in over a decade in the United States, and the fourth largest in history. The highest value item to sell was a 51.08-carat loose diamond of D color and VVS1 clarity, which sold for \$3.2 million.

Sotheby's also had brisk sales on December 6 totaling \$28.3 million. The *Magnificent Jewels from the Houses of Castellani and Guilliano: The Judith H. Siegel Collection* brought in \$7.4 million, with 87% of the pieces selling above estimates.

Antiquorum's *Important Collector's Pocket Watches and Clocks* sale brought in \$7.3 million the same week, bringing their yearly sales to \$78 million.

JSIS Insurance, March 2007