

JEWELRY

## Phillips auctions ultra-rare Patek Philippe once belonging to China's last emperor

March 17, 2023



*The artifacts on display in this traveling exhibition—including the Patek Philippe timepiece—belonged to Aisin-Gioro Puyi, last emperor of the Qing Dynasty. Image credit: Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Global auction house **Phillips** in Association with Bacs & Russo is marking the opening its new Asia headquarters by unveiling a piece of history.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

From March 18 through 31, select personal effects once belonging to Aisin-Gioro PuYi, the last Emperor of China's Qing Dynasty, will be on display in Hong Kong before being taken on an international touring exhibition.

These effects include the emperor's **Patek Philippe** Reference 96 Quantieme Lune, one of only eight such movements ever to surface.

**Timeless bonds**

The platinum-cased Quantieme Lune with pink gold ring features Arabic numerals around the circumference of its face.

There is one other known example of a timepiece with this Arabic "Roulette" configuration, and it is owned by the Patek Philippe Museum. The one on display at Phillips' Hong Kong headquarters was gifted by former Emperor PuYi to a man who became his friend while PuYi was a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union.



*Puyi's notebook was filled with notes on books he read and daily customs in his native China. Image credit: Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo*

Beginning in 1945, PuYi spent five years detained in a Soviet camp in the city of Khabarovsk, 30 miles from the China/Russia border. While there, he formed a close relationship to his interpreter, Georgy Permyakov, and when PuYi was released from the camp and repatriated to China, he gave Mr. Permyakov his Quantieme Lune.

The former emperor also gifted a red fan inscribed with a personal message to Mr. Permyakov, as well as a notebook, 15 watercolor paintings which are believed to have been done by PuYi's brother-in-law, Runqi, and a leatherbound copy of *Analects* by Chinese philosopher and politician Confucius.

These five artifacts, following their time on display at Phillips' Asia headquarters in the Kowloon district of Hong Kong, will be subsequently shown in New York, Singapore, London and Taipei, before their last stop in Geneva through May 14.

Phillips in association with Bacs & Russo holds the record for most successful watch auction, and for the highest-ever yield for a vintage Patek Philippe at auction.

Last fall, the house put three designs by noted watchmaker George Daniels up for bid , including the George Daniels Millennium model ([see story](#)).

---

© 2023 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.