

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



FERDINAND BARBEDIENNE (1810 - 1892)

A Pair of Classical Revival Patinated Bronze Vases

Circa: Dated 1854

73 x 11 x 11 cm (28³/₁₆ x 4³/₁₆ inches)

Patinated bronze

France

1854

Signed 'Henry Cahieux' and 'F. Barbedienne'.

A Fine Pair of Classical Revival Patinated Bronze Vases, Designed by Henry Cahieux and Cast by Ferdinand Barbedienne, on red marble bases with gilt bronze paw feet.

This exceptional pair of patinated bronze urns was designed in the fashionable *néo-grec* style by the Parisian sculptor Henry Cahieux and cast by the *fondeur* Ferdinand Barbedienne.

This model of vase was exhibited by Barbedienne at the 1855 Paris Universelle Exhibition to great acclaim. They were illustrated in the Exhibition Catalogue alongside a classical revival tripod. The pair of vases together with another were described as follows: The two vases (...) selected from many exquisite and beautiful decorative works in bronze from the atelier of Messrs. Barbedienne & Cie, of Paris; they are formed, and ornamented, on the best models of the ancient Greek.

The Parisian sculptor Henry Cahieux (1825-1854) is recorded as having supplied the celebrated Barbedienne foundry with exclusive master models for casting in bronze including, bas-reliefs in the *néo-grec*, Egyptian and Japanese styles. He exhibited at the Salon between 1850 and 1853, his work always cast by Ferdinand Barbedienne.

Literature:

Meyer, Jonathan (2006), 'Great Exhibitions, London - New York - Paris - Philadelphia 1851-1900',
Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge; p.95-97, il. C15.

Artist description:

Ferdinand Barbedienne (1810-1892) was the inspiration and driving force behind one of the most important French art foundries. He pioneered the use of mounts and, more commonly, bronze sculpture including figures and animals. Barbedienne produced catalogues of bronze reproductions of Greek and Roman classical sculpture and experimented with champlève and cloisonné enamels during the third quarter of the century. Barbedienne exhibited several pieces of furniture at the 1855 Paris Exhibition including an ormolu mounted oak dressing table and an ormolu mounted ebony veneered bookcase. Both pieces were executed in his favoured Renaissance revival style for furniture. Furniture with mounts signed by Barbedienne is extremely rare.

The Barbedienne foundry handled the casting of numerous national monuments and architectural schemes. Ferdinand Barbedienne himself also took an active part in the promotion of contemporary sculpture and became one of the founders for Davis d'Angers' medallions as well as much of Rude's sculpture.

His signature varied from hand written capitals to stamp in capitals, usually F. Barbedienne, Fondateur or BARBEDIENNE PARIS.

In 1839 Barbedienne collaborated with the inventor Achille Collas who had succeeded in enlarging and reducing works of art to arbitrary sizes by a simple mathematical calculation, allowing the accurate reduction of classical and contemporary marbles for the purpose of reproduction in bronze. In 1850 Barbedienne was commissioned to furnish the Paris town hall for which he was awarded with the 'medaille d' honneur' at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1855.

Barbedienne's awards:

Paris, 1878; 'Grand Prix', 'Grande Médaille d'Or', 'Diplôme d'honneur', and 28 'Médailles de Coopérateurs'.

Vienna 1873; 2 'Diplômes d'Honneur', 'Médailles de Progrès', and 25 'Médailles de Coopérateurs'.

Paris 1867: 'Jure Rapporteur (Hors Concours)'.

London 1862; 3 Medals for Excellence.

Paris 1855; 'Grande Médaille d'Honneur'.

London 1851; 2 Council Medals.

Makers Bibliography:

Barbedienne, Ferdinand, Catalogue des Bronzes d'art 1886, Fonderie d'art Français: Val d'Osne, Fonderie de Tusey, Antoine-Louis Barye, Fonderie Rudier, Charles Crozatier, Ferdinand Barbedienne, Livres Groupe, (Paris) 2010

Mestdagh, Camille and Pierre Lecoules, L'Ameublement d'art français: 1850-1900, Editions de l'Amateur (Paris), 2010, pp.23, 120, 155, 161 and 179.

Kjellberg, Pierre, Les Bronzes du XIX Siècle, dictionnaire des sculpteurs, Editions de l'Amateur (Paris) 1987, pps.653-658.

Meyer, Jonathan, Great Exhibitions: London, New York, Paris, Philadelphia, 1851-1900, Antique Collector's Club (Woodbridge, UK), 2006.

Ledoux-Lebard, Denise, Les Ebénistes du XIX Siècle, Editions de l'Amateur, (Paris) 1984, p.38.

Cooper, Jeremy, 19th Century Romantic Bronzes, New York Graphic Society, 1975 pps. 25, 41, 149.