

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



After Gouthière

A Fine Louis XVI Style Gilt-Bronze Cherub Twelve-Light Chandelier

Circa: Circa 1870

133 x 0 cm (52³/₄ x 0 inches)

Gilt-Bronze

France

1870

A Fine Louis XVI Style Gilt-Bronze Cherub Twelve-Light Chandelier, after the model by Pierre Gouthière for Marie Antoinette.

The chandelier having elaborate acanthus scrolling arms issued from a classical torch stem surmounted by three perching ignipotent cherubs blowing trumpets beneath a finely cast gilt-bronze flame finial.

The original model for this Chandelier was designed by Pierre Gouthière for Le Cabinet Doré in Marie-Antoinette's private apartments at the Palace of Versailles, where it remains to this day. A design for the chandelier by Gouthière survives in the collections of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

The model continued to be popular throughout the nineteenth century and examples are recorded by important makers such as Henry Dasson and Maison Beurdeley.

Literature:

Ottomeyer, Hans & Pröschel, Peter. *Vergoldete Bronzen*, Vol. I, Klinkhardt & Biermann, (Munich), 1986; p. 238, figs. 4.4.1. and 4.4.2.

Artist description:

Pierre Gouthière (1732 - 1813) was the most celebrated bronze gilder in France during the eighteenth century, the title of Gilder to the King being given to him by Louis XV. He perfected the most expensive type of gilding of this period, dorure au mat, which involved the use of lavish amounts of gold to create a rich, deep matte finish. As well as working for the King he created items for the Comte d'Artois, the Marquis de Marigny, and the duc d'Aumont.

The collection of the duc d'Aumont was sold at auction in Paris in 1782 and many objects mounted by

Gouthière were bought by Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. His works, unsurpassed in creativity and execution, can now be found in the Wallace Collection, London and the Louvre, Paris.