

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Henry Dasson (1825 - 1896)

Pair of Louis XVI Style Gilt-Bronze Three-Light Wall Appliques In the Manner of Antoine-André Ravrio

Circa: French, Dated 1890

French, Dated 1890

64 x 32 x 23 cm (25 1/4 x 12 5/8 x 9 inches)

Gilt-Bronze

Inscribed to the bronze 'Henry Dasson et Cie 1890'.

An Important Pair of Louis XVI Style Gilt-Bronze Three-Light Wall Appliques in the Manner of Antoine-André Ravrio, by Henry Dasson et Cie.

Inscribed to the bronze 'Henry Dasson et Cie 1890'.

Each wall light is modelled as a quiver of arrows suspended on a ribbon tie, issuing three acanthus-sheathed fluted candlearms.

The design is closely related to a pair of wall appliques originally supplied on 18 May 1805 for the dining-room at the Petit Trianon by the bronzier-doreur, Antoine-André Ravrio. In July of the same year the same pair were moved to Fontainebleau and hung in Empress Eugénie's dining-room. A pair of appliques of this model were sold in the 'Vente H. Dasson & Cie.', Hotel Drouot, Paris, 10-12 December 1894, lot 88.

Antoine-André Ravrio (1759-1814), was an important French bronzier and son of a well-known bronze-founder. He became a master in the bronze workers' guild in 1777. Ravrio's career reached its peak during the empire period, his work rivalling that of Pierre-Philippe Thomire. He was awarded a silver

medal at the 1806 Paris Exposition de l'Industrie and in 1810 he was appointed bronzier to Napoléon, for whom he worked at Saint-Cloud and Compiègne, and at the Tuileries.

French, Dated 1880.

Artist description:

Henry Dasson (1825-1896) was one of the finest makers of gilt-bronze mounted furniture in the nineteenth century. Unlike other cabinetmakers of this time Dasson started his career as a bronze sculptor, and for this reason one of the characteristics of his work is the great quality of his bronze and more precisely of the chiselling.

With a workshop established in Paris at 106 rue Vieille-du-Temple, he specialised predominantly in the production of Louis XIV, XV and XVI style furniture using the very finest gilt-bronze mounts.

In 1871, he purchased the flourishing business and remaining stock of Charles-Guillaume Winckelsen, who had established a reputation for furniture of the highest quality. Dasson almost certainly inherited the craft of ciseleur from Winckelsen.

At the 1878 and 1889 Paris Expositions Universelles Dasson exhibited a number of pieces in the Louis XV and XVI styles, as well as pieces of his own modified eighteenth-century design. The exhibits in 1878 included a table entirely in gilt-bronze, purchased by Lord Dudley. His copy of the celebrated Bureau du Roi sold at the same exhibition to Lady Ashburton.

Dasson ceased production in 1894, and at this time held a sale of his models, listed in 'Catalogues of drawings for art bronzes, style furniture and important decoration with rights of reproduction by Henry Dasson et Cie, manufacturer of art bronzes and cabinetmaker as a result of cessation of production..'

The records from this sale show that Paul Sormani, as well as Joseph Emmanuel Zweiner, Maison Millet and Beurdeley acquired certain drawings and models by Dasson.

Jonathan Meyer illustrates a number of exceptional items exhibited by Dasson in 1889 in his book on the Great Exhibitions.

Makers Bibliography:

Camille Mestdagh, Pierre Lécoules (2010) : L'Ameublement d'art français : 1850-1900, Editions de l'Amateur.

Ledoux-Lebard, Denise (1984), Les Ebénistes du XIXème siècle; pp. 146 - 151.

Meyer, Jonathan (2006), Great Exhibitions - London, New York, Paris, Philadelphia, 1851-1900, Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge; p. 269, pls. H7, H8, H10: p. 270, pl, H12, Editions de l'Amateur, (Paris), 2010.