

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Paul Sormani (1817 - 1877)

A Rare and Unusual Gilt-Bronze Mounted Mahogany Tea Table

Circa: French, Circa 1870

French, Circa 1870

96 x 101 x 58 cm (37 ³/₁₆ x 39 ³/₁₆ x 22 ⁷/₁₆ inches)

Gilt-Bronze mounted

The tray handle signed 'P. SORMANI PARIS'.

A Rare and Unusual Gilt-Bronze Mounted Mahogany Tea Table

By Paul Sormani, Paris.

This decorative and unusual table makes for a great conversation piece as the tray can be removed to serve drinks. The finely cast gilt-bronze tray has a glass top within a rocaille frame and is supported atop a pierced scroll sculpted stand. The table top is quarter pattern veneered. The serpentine frieze has pierced foliate mounts to front and back and the corners are ornamented with matching clasps. On cabriole legs.

The tray handle signed 'P. SORMANI PARIS'.

French, circa 1870.

Artist description:

Born in Venice in 1817, Paul Sormani (1817-1877), was a Parisian maker of fine 'meubles de luxe'. His work was described in the catalogue of the 1867 Exposition Universelle as: 'toute sa production révèle une qualité d'exécution de tout premier ordre' (all of his production reveals a quality of execution all of the first order').

Sormani exhibited at the International Exhibitions in Paris in 1849, 1855, 1867, 1878 and 1900, and in London in 1862, winning numerous medals.

Paul Sormani established the firm in 1847 at 7, Cimetière Saint-Nicholas in Paris, moving in 1854 to 114, Rue du Temple, and in 1867 to 10, rue Charlot.

After his death in 1877 Sormani's son Paul-Charles took over the business that later moved to 134 boulevard Haussmann.

It can be difficult to date Sormani's work, as the firm produced furniture for nearly ninety years. However, when Paul Sormani died in 1877, his wife and son took over the business and from this date onwards pieces are normally signed 'Veuve Sormani & Fils'.

Maker Bibliography:

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Ledoux - Lebard, Denise, Les ébénistes du XIXe Siècle, Editions de L'Amateur (Paris), 1984. pp. 583-588.