



Neo-egyptian Clock Attributed To G. Servant, France, Circa 1870



5 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Bronze

Width : 39

Height : 46

Depth : 17

Description

A black and red marble clock in the shape of an Egyptian temple, flanked by double columns inscribed with hieroglyphs and ornated with a winged uraeus, all made in two patina bronze. The clock is surmounted by a patinated bronze sphinx. Resting on four bronze faces wearing the nemes and terminating in lion paw feet.

Biography

Georges Emile Henri Servant (1828-c.1890) who took over his father in 1855 at their foundry, rue Vieille-du-Temple, in Paris, specialized in the production of neo-Egyptian style clocks, very popular in France since 1860's, and also the making of Greek style decorative objects. He drew considerable attention to the high quality of his bronzes at the 1855 Paris Universal Exhibition

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and then at the 1862 London Exhibition. At this time Servant exported up to 40% of his production, principally to the United States, where for instance, his sphinx clocks were sold with great success by Louis Tiffany Inc. or Hamann & Roche of New York (A similar clock is now exposed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York). But his success came really at the 1867 Paris Universal Exhibition, where he was awarded a gold medal for his neo-Greek and Egyptian works (*Les Merveilles de l'Exposition Universelle de 1867*, t. II, p^o 165 & 167). He was even awarded in 1874 the « *Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur* », France's highest official mark of recognition. Servant participated once again successfully at the 1878 Paris Universal Exhibition, where he not only exhibited vases and small bronze pieces of furniture, but was also a member of the jury for the class of bronze pieces of art. He finally retired shortly before the 1889 Paris Universal Exhibition.