



---

Chelsea Style Samson Porcelain Figures Of Bacchus And Mars, Roman Mythology, C. 1850s



500 EUR

Signature : Samson

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Porcelain

Height : 15,5 cm

Description

Rare Mid-19th Century Samson Paris Porcelain Figures of Mars and Bacchus, after Chelsea, Roman Mythology, c. 1850s This rare pair of Paris porcelain figures by Samson et Cie, dating to circa 1850s, is a fine example of the firm's Historicist work emulating 18th-century English Chelsea porcelain. Modeled and hand-painted in soft pastel enamel colours with elegant gilt accents, these figures represent Mars, god of war, and Bacchus, god of wine and festivity, from classical Roman mythology -- or Ares and Dionysus in the Greek tradition. Mars is shown in classical armour with a plumed helmet, resting one hand on a shield decorated with a raised rooster motif. In Greek mythology, the rooster symbolised vigilance, bravery, and readiness for combat; in Roman times, the rooster was sacred

Dealer

**Gillers Antiques**

Specialists in 19th-century European silverware, porcelain and décor

Mobile : +44 7738009924

Buntingford SG9 0PY

to Mars and cockfighting became popular as a symbol of martial courage. Bacchus is depicted joyfully nude, draped with a fur pelt, holding a bunch of grapes aloft in his right hand and a wine cup in his left, symbolising celebration, vitality, and abundance. Both figures stand on pierced scrollwork bases, embellished with delicate floral touches and fine gilt detailing, capturing the Rococo Revival tastes of the mid-19th century.

The reverse of each figure bears Samson's hand-painted gold anchor mark -- a clear homage to the Chelsea manufactory -- alongside an impressed "S" to the undersides, both typical identifiers of Samson's work during this period.

**Historical Background** Founded by Edmé Samson in Paris around 1845, Samson, Edmé et Cie gained renown for producing finely crafted porcelain pieces inspired by earlier European manufactories such as Sèvres, Meissen, Derby, Worcester, and Chelsea. Originally intended to supply reproductions for collectors seeking to complete antique sets, Samson's work quickly gained distinction for its technical skill and faithful interpretation of 18th-century designs.

The manufactory frequently adopted styles and marks of earlier factories, such as the anchor for Chelsea, as an homage rather than an intent to deceive, creating pieces that are now highly collectible in their own

**Measurements** Height (Bacchus): 15.5 cm / 6.1"

Height (Mars): 15 cm / 5.9"  
**Condition** Excellent antique condition, with vivid colours, crisp modelling, and strong decorative presence. Very minor rubbing to the gilding, consistent with age and handling. Both figures remain intact with no chips, cracks, or restorations. A beautifully preserved pair with excellent display appeal.

**Shipping & Packaging** Fully tracked and insured delivery. We are pleased to offer free worldwide shipping on this lot. Carefully packed using recycled materials where possible. Customs paperwork provided where necessary for smooth international delivery. Please review all photographs carefully,

as they form part of the description, and feel free to ask any questions.