



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

H. Journet & Cie, Japanese-style Planter, France, Circa 1880



10 500 EUR

Signature : H. Journet & Cie

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 32

Height : 30

Depth : 28

Description

Signed Sté des onyx ; H. Journet & Cie ; 24 Bd Italiens ; 3167 Beautiful planter made of banded Algerian onyx, mounted in gilded bronze. Resting on four legs connected by aprons with lamp-shaped bases in a fanciful Japanese-inspired style, this planter features two gilded bronze handles, each secured to the body by a Phô dog's muzzle. The body tapers toward the neck and flares out into a continuous frieze of Japanese-style lambrequins. It is signed with a stamp reading "Sté des onyx; H. Journet & Cie; 24 Bd Italiens; 3167," which indicates the origin of the onyx, its gilt-bronze setting, and the model number. Biography : The Compagnie des Marbres Onyx d'Algérie, led by Gustave Viot (1828-1897), was founded by Alphonse Pallu (1808-1880) on June 14, 1858. This company was

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involved in the mining of onyx, a stone known since ancient times and rediscovered in 1849 in the province of Oran, Algeria, by Del Monte, a marble craftsman. In 1863, it opened a store at 24 Boulevard des Italiens in Paris. In the mid-1860s, the company's name changed to "G. Viot & Cie," and it produced pieces based on models by renowned sculptors such as Eugène Cornu, Albert Carrier-Belleuse (1824-1887) (Victoria & Albert Museum, Inv. 9070-1863), Charles Cordier (1827-1905) (Orsay, Inv. RF 2996), and Louis-Ernest Barrias (1841-1905) (Orsay, Inv. RF 1409), producing highly luxurious decorative works characterized by the combination of onyx with bronze, and sometimes enamel. At their booth at the 1867 Paris World's Fair, they presented an impressive pair of vases made of onyx, bronze, and enamel, featuring elephant-shaped bases (signed "G. Viot et Cie, 1867 Exhibition, Eugène Cornu, Inventor"; Official Exhibition Catalog, Group III, Class XIV, "luxury furniture," No. 65), which was admired by the jury and earned them a gold medal (Reports of the International Jury, 1867 Paris World's Fair, 1868, Vol. III, Group III, Class XV, Chapter II, § 2, pp. 45 & 46). In January 1879, Henri Journet became manager of the company, still located at 24 Boulevard des Italiens, which he renamed Henri Journet et Cie. He participated in the 1884 exhibition at the Palais de l'Industrie, where his work was once again acclaimed. In early 1886, the company closed its doors.