



Pair Of Candlesticks Made Of Mahogany And Gilded Wood



14 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Mahogany

Height : 170 cm

Description

Pair of mahogany and gilded wood candlesticks. Mahogany, carved and gilded wood. Lombardy. First quarter of the 19th century. H. 170 cm (66.9 in.). The quality of the craftsmanship in the gilded wood acanthus leaf motifs suggests a Lombard origin for these candelabra, whose style--a confident yet understated neoclassicism--might otherwise be mistaken for Florentine, that is, for the simplified Empire style popularized in Tuscany by the cabinetmaker Jean-Baptiste Youf (1762-1838), who was commissioned by Elisa Bonaparte--made Princess of Lucca and later Grand Duchess of Tuscany--to establish a workshop in Lucca capable of rivaling the furniture that was then the pride of Parisian cabinetmakers during the Empire. The ribbed lobes of the acanthus leaves,

Dealer

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delicately layered to recreate in gilded wood the effect that the alternation of matte and burnished sections would have achieved in bronze, point to the origins of these torch holders in northern Italy -- either in Piedmont, where a virtuoso school of *intagliato* had established itself in the 18th century, or in Lombardy. The acanthus leaf motif is, in fact, very similar to that of a sgabello preserved at the Castello Sforzesco in Milan, executed after a model by Giocondo Albertolli by a Lombard workshop at the very end of the 18th century. The base of one of the candlesticks conceals a secret compartment. See Denise Ledoux-Lebard, *Les Ébénistes du XIXe siècle. 1795-1889*, Paris, 1984, and especially Adriana Boidi Sassone et al., *Furniture. From Rococo to Art Deco*, Cologne, 2000. For the furniture crafted by Jean-Baptiste Youf for Élisabeth Bonaparte, see Enrico Colle, *Il mobile dell'Ottocento in Italia. Arredi e décorations d'interni dal 1815 al 1900*, Milan, 2007.