Pierre Gouthière - Delafosse Model - Pair Of Candlesticks: Incense Burners / Candlesticks



18 500 EUR

Signature : Modèle De Jean Charles Delafosse, Exécution Attribuée à Pierre Gouthière

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Diameter : 11 cm

Height : 24 cm

Description

Attributed to Pierre Gouthière - Exceptional Pair of Louis XVI Period Gilt-Bronze Cassolettes after Jean-Charles Delafosse - Circa 1770 An exceptional pair of Louis XVI period cassolettes and candlesticks in finely chased and mercury-gilt bronze, executed in Paris circa 1770, after designs by the celebrated ornamental designer Jean-Charles Delafosse (1734-1789).This pair is distinguished by its truly exceptional quality of execution, both in the precision of its casting and chasing and in the refinement of its gilding. The extraordinary attention devoted to the smallest details allows these cassolettes to be compared with the productions of the greatest Parisian bronziers of the reign of Louis XVI, notably Pierre Gouthière (1732-1813) and Étienne Martincourt, whose

Dealer

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workshops produced some of the most refined works of the period.An Execution of Exceptional Refinement Each cassolette takes the form of an elegant antique-style vase surmounted by a removable pierced cover, allowing it to serve either as a perfume burner or as a candlestick.The vase rests upon a remarkable tripod base formed of powerful scrolling foliage, whose volutes, veins and smallest ornamental details display chasing of exceptional precision.The circular base is highlighted by a richly chased water-leaf frieze, accompanied by finely executed mouldings and ornamental details.The extraordinary quality of this pair is particularly evident in the attention devoted to its execution. No element has been overlooked, not even the assembly components or screws, which are themselves carefully worked and decorated. Such attention, extending even to normally concealed areas, demonstrates a level of craftsmanship rarely encountered.The original mercury gilding, remarkably well preserved, displays superb contrasts between matte and burnished surfaces. Its depth and brilliance beautifully enhance the sharpness of the chasing, whose reliefs retain remarkable freshness.The harmonious matching of the two cassolettes, the delicacy of their execution and the quality of their gilding constitute the principal merits of this pair, whose level of finish substantially surpasses that of examples more commonly encountered.Jean-Charles Delafosse and the Great Parisian Bronziers Architect, designer and ornamentalist, Jean-Charles Delafosse (1734-1789) played an essential role in the development of French Neoclassicism from the 1760s onwards.His collections of ornamental designs, particularly his Nouvelle Iconologie Historique, contributed significantly to the renewal of models intended for bronziers, cabinetmakers and decorative craftsmen.His creations, characterised by rigorous architectural compositions, tripod supports, powerful volutes and a rich Classical vocabulary, were interpreted by the most accomplished Parisian

workshops.Among these were Pierre Gouthière, the celebrated chaser and gilder to the King, whose works are distinguished by exceptional virtuosity in the treatment of bronze and matte gilding, and Étienne Martincourt, a renowned sculptor and chaser associated with several models of Neoclassical tripod candlesticks.The present pair brings together precisely the qualities sought in these prestigious productions: extremely fine casting, particularly crisp and vigorous chasing, perfectly controlled modelling and gilding of exceptional quality.In the absence of a signature, the attribution to Pierre Gouthière remains stylistic. Nevertheless, the outstanding quality of execution makes it reasonable to consider a work from his workshop or that of another leading bronzier, such as Étienne Martincourt.A Model Documented in Major Auction Sales A pair of cassolettes and candlesticks of the same model, also dating from the Louis XVI period and inspired by Delafosse, formed part of the prestigious Hubert de Givenchy Collection, dispersed at Christie's Paris on 17 June 2022, lot 130, where it sold for EUR5,292 including buyer's premium.This pair, displaying certain differences in execution and less uniformity between its two elements, provides a particularly interesting comparison.Our pair stands apart through its markedly superior quality of casting and chasing, the remarkable refinement of its original gilding and an exceptionally high degree of finish, extending even to assembly elements that would ordinarily receive little attention.The works of Pierre Gouthière also occupy a prominent position in the international market for 18th-century gilt bronzes. A pair of candlesticks signed by the bronzier, likewise from the Hubert de Givenchy Collection, sold for EUR289,800 at Christie's Paris on 14 June 2022, lot 2.Although representing a different model, this result illustrates the recognition accorded to the virtuosity of the great 18th-century chasers and gilders.Specialist literature also documents

several Neoclassical tripod candlesticks associated with Étienne Martincourt, including examples preserved in the Wallace Collection in London and the Frick Collection in New York.Two Executions of the Same Model Available in Our Gallery We also offer in our gallery a second pair of cassolettes and candlesticks of the identical model, executed during the first half of the 19th century.Although this second pair also displays fine-quality bronze work and considerable attention to ornamental detail, its execution remains noticeably less refined than that of the present Louis XVI pair.This comparison is particularly revealing: with an identical design, the precision of the casting, the depth of the chasing, the sharpness of the smallest ornaments and, above all, the quality of the gilding demonstrate the difference between a fine decorative execution and a work of the highest standard.Both pairs can be presented side by side upon request, allowing collectors and enthusiasts to appreciate these differences in craftsmanship directly. They may also be offered together for acquisition, bringing together two executions of the same model produced several decades apart.A Collector's Pair and a Heritage Investment Beyond their decorative function, these cassolettes represent a genuine collector's ensemble, illustrating the exceptional standards achieved by the leading Parisian gilt-bronze workshops during the final decades of the 18th century.The significance of this pair lies in the combination of several qualities rarely encountered together at such a high level: a design by Jean-Charles Delafosse, an authentic Louis XVI period execution, chasing of remarkable precision and exceptionally well-preserved original mercury gilding.They therefore represent an acquisition of considerable heritage interest, intended for a collector seeking not only a prestigious design but, above all, a quality of craftsmanship worthy of comparison with the finest productions of the 18th century.Through the perfection of their details,

their harmonious matching and the beauty of their gilding, this pair stands as a remarkable testimony to the art of Parisian bronze-making during the reign of Louis XVI.Bibliographical References and Comparisons Jean-Charles Delafosse, Nouvelle Iconologie Historique, from 1768: designs for Neoclassical ornaments and lighting objects.Peter Hughes, The Wallace Collection: Catalogue of Furniture, London, 1996, vol. III, pp. 1240-1246: candlesticks of a model attributed to Étienne Martincourt.Pierre Verlet, Les Bronzes dorés français du XVIIIe siècle, Paris, 1987.Charlotte Vignon and Christian Baulez, Pierre Gouthière: Virtuoso Gilder at the French Court, The Frick Collection, New York, 2016.Christie's, Paris, 17 June 2022, lot 130, Hubert de Givenchy Collection: pair of Louis XVI period candlesticks in the taste of Delafosse, sold for EUR5,292.Christie's, Paris, 14 June 2022, lot 2, Hubert de Givenchy Collection: pair of candlesticks signed by Pierre Gouthière, sold for EUR289,800. Period: Louis XVI, circa 1770Origin: Paris, FranceDesign: After Jean-Charles Delafosse (1734-1789)Attribution: Pierre Gouthière (1732-1813); stylistically related to the productions of Étienne MartincourtMaterial: Finely chased and mercury-gilt bronzeHeight: 24 cm (9.4 inches)Diameter: 11 cm (4.3 inches)Condition: Very fine state of preservation, remarkably well-preserved original gildingPrice: EUR18,500 for the pairProfessional packing and delivery available throughout France and internationally. Shipping quotations upon request.