Ghent, 1791, Petrus Dupret, Pair Of Louis XVI Candlesticks In Solid Silver



1 900 EUR

Signature : Petrus Dupret

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Height : 29 cm

Description

Pair of Louis XVI Silver Candlesticks - Ghent, 1791 - Petrus Josephus DupretAn elegant pair of Louis XVI solid silver candlesticks, made in Ghent in 1791 by the master silversmith Petrus Josephus Dupret, also known as Duprez.The candlesticks rest on broad circular bases with stepped concentric mouldings, their domed centres rising towards collars bordered by a row of beading. The plain, tapering stems display particularly slender proportions and terminate in cylindrical capitals decorated with garlands of flowers and foliage in relief, suspended from rings.The vase-shaped sockets, decorated with vertical gadrooning, are surmounted by beaded borders and cylindrical necks supporting broad circular drip pans.The restrained elegance of the plain silver surfaces, combined with the delicate

Dealer

Ian Panné
Antique silverware and general antiques
Tel : +32 475443619

Essene-kerkplein 5b
Affligem 1790

floral garlands, gadrooning and beaded borders, perfectly illustrates the decorative vocabulary of late eighteenth-century Neoclassicism. The harmonious proportions and fine workmanship lend this pair remarkable elegance.Hallmarks:A crowned, stylised capital D in English script, the maker's mark of Petrus Josephus Dupret.A helmet and a crowned letter G, the assay marks of the city of Ghent.The numeral 91, indicating the year 1791.Height: 29 cm Weight of the pair: 650 gPetrus Josephus Dupret, master silversmith in Ghent from 1767 to 1798Born in Ath on 25 January 1733, Petrus Josephus Dupret was the son of Petrus Dupret and Anna Ludovica Stienart. He acquired the rights of citizenship of Ghent on 7 July 1762 and was registered as a journeyman with the silversmith Nicolaas Cyffle on 25 October 1764.On 5 March 1767, he married Maria Theresia du Bois. That same year, he was admitted as a master of the Ghent silversmiths' guild. On 19 November 1767, the guild's wardens instructed him to produce a coffee pot as his masterpiece.As the head of his own workshop, Dupret trained several apprentices: Bernardus Wallez in 1768, Bernardus Debbaut in 1772, Joseph Emmanuel van Goethem in 1781, François Augustinus van Goethem in 1785 and François Hulcke in 1790.His production encompassed both secular and ecclesiastical silver. Between 1779 and 1781, he worked notably for the Saint Aubert Beguinage in Ghent, supplying a ciborium, a gilt chalice and a chrismatory.On 1 December 1798, after more than thirty years of activity as a master silversmith, he retired from his trade and his maker's punch was destroyed.An exceptional surviving document: the design for his masterpiece of 1767We are particularly fortunate that the collections of STAM, the Ghent City Museum, preserve the magnificent preparatory drawing of the coffee pot that Petrus Josephus Dupret was required to execute as his masterpiece in order to gain admission to the silversmiths' guild.This spectacular drawing depicts a

sumptuous Rococo coffee pot with spirally fluted sides, resting on scrolling feet richly embellished with rocaille ornament. The spout takes the form of a dolphin's head, while the cover echoes the swirling movement of the body. An elaborate scrolling handle completes this highly accomplished composition.The handwritten inscription at the bottom of the drawing records that this design was assigned to Dupret by the wardens of the Ghent silversmiths' guild on 19 November 1767. The document provides exceptional insight into the technical and artistic standards required of aspiring master silversmiths in the eighteenth century.The comparison between this drawing and our pair of candlesticks, produced twenty-four years later, admirably illustrates the evolution of taste in the Southern Netherlands during the second half of the eighteenth century. The exuberant, flowing forms of the Rococo gave way to the symmetry, architectural discipline and ornamental refinement of the Louis XVI style.This pair of candlesticks thus represents a particularly fine example of the artistic maturity of a Ghent master silversmith whose early career can be documented through an original drawing preserved in a public collection.References:Biographical entry for Petrus Josephus Dupret (Duprez), p. 88 of the illustrated reference work.Stuyck, maker's marks nos. 2841 and 2842.STAM, Ghent City Museum, former Bijloke Museum collection, inventory no. 645: preparatory drawing for the masterpiece of Petrus Josephus Dupret, 1767.Sotheby's, New York, 19 October 1995, lot 196: a covered bowl made by Petrus Josephus Dupret in 1769, recorded in his biographical entry.