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XVIII-XIX CENTURY
FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS



**AN IMPORTANT LOUIS XVI STYLE COMMUNE BY
HENRY DASSON**

Dimensions: H: 36.5 in / 92 cm | W: 57.5 in / 146 cm | D: 23 in / 58 cm

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An Important Louis XVI Style Commode
By Henry Dasson

After the Design by Adam Weisweiler
For the King's Cabinet at Saint-Cloud

Constructed from mahogany and incorporating well-cast and chased ormolu mounts, the breakfront side cabinet supported on six fluted toupie feet, the sides and tripartite front all paneled with ormolu double borders with three doors enclosing a shelved interior; the corners with distinctive freestanding and tapering columns, fluted and inlaid with brass filets, terminating in a 'torsade' gilded bronze capital flanking the frieze decorated with foliate rinceaux populated by ibixes and putti housing three lockable drawers below the Campan marble top in its gilded surround. Stamped twice to the carcass "Henry Dasson / 1887."
French, dated 1887

The present commode is Henry Dasson's rendition of the celebrated commode à vantaux made by



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Adam Weisweiler and supplied by his marchand-mercier Dominique Daguerre to King Louis XVI for his Cabinet du Roi at the Château de Saint-Cloud in 1788, today on view at the Château de Compiègne. Weisweiler produced a series of these breakfront commodes, all with slight variations, including a pair found at the Louvre and another at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Made almost exactly one century after Weisweiler's example, Dason's impeccable craftsmanship pays homage to the great ébéniste of the Ancien Régime.

Literature:

Henry Dason (1825-1896)

Henry Dason was a renowned Parisian furniture maker in the nineteenth century, known for his exquisite gilt-bronze mounted furniture. Unlike his contemporaries, Dason initially pursued a career as a bronze sculptor, which influenced the exceptional quality of his bronze work and intricate chiseling.

Dason operated his workshop at 106 rue Vieille-du-Temple in Paris, specializing in crafting furniture in the styles of Louis XIV, XV, and XVI. In 1871, Dason acquired the thriving business and remaining inventory of Charles-Guillaume Winckelsen, a well-regarded furniture maker renowned for his superior craftsmanship. It is believed that Dason inherited the art of ciseleur (chiseling) from Winckelsen.

Dason showcased his works at the 1878 and 1889 Paris Expositions Universelles, exhibiting pieces in the styles of Louis XV and XVI, as well as his own modified eighteenth-century designs. Lord Dudley and Lady Ashburton were among his renowned clients at the exhibitions, as well as the English Royal Family.

Made a chevalier of the Légion d'honneur in 1883, he was elevated to an officier in 1889, following his success at the Paris Exposition of the same year. Dason ceased production in 1894, and the enduring reputation of the finest maker of gilt-bronze mounted furniture was echoed and acknowledged when his contemporaries Paul Sormani, J.E. Zwiener, Maison Millet, and Beurdeley all jumped at the chance to acquire drawings and models by Dason. Nevertheless, the pieces created by Dason remain without equal, and stand at the epitome of nineteenth-century French furniture.

Literature:



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