



**A PAIR OF PATINATED BRONZE MODELS OF THE
TOWNLEY VASE**

10605



A Pair of Patinated Bronze Models of the Townley Vase
Cast after the Antique

Of elegant krater form, executed in patinated bronze, each vase with scrolling, pierced volute handles surmounted by palmette-cast necks. The ovoid bodies are cast in high relief with an animated Bacchic frieze, the whole raised on architectural black plinths with bronze Corinthian columns.

French, circa 1870

This exceptional pair is cast after the celebrated Townley Vase, now preserved in the British Museum. The frieze depicts a procession of Bacchic revellers, including Bacchus and Ariadne, accompanied by a range of symbolic attributes associated with the Eleusinian Mysteries.

The original Townley Vase is a monumental Roman marble vase dating to the 2nd century CE. It was

discovered in 1773 by the Scottish antiquarian and dealer Gavin Hamilton during excavations at the Villa of Antoninus Pius at Monte Cagnolo, between Genzano and Civita Lavinia, near the ancient site of Lanuvium, in Lazio, southeast of Rome. The vase was acquired in 1774 by the distinguished English collector Charles Townley for the sum of £250 and was displayed for many years at his London residence in Park Street. Following Townley's death in 1805, his celebrated collection was purchased by the British Museum, where the vase remains one of the most important survivals of Roman decorative sculpture.