

The Gilded Age Revisited: Property from a Distinguished American Collection

New York | 02 Feb 2019 | 06:00 PM MSK



799

A LOUIS XV GILT AND PATINATED-BRONZE PENDULE A L'ÉLEPHANT, MID-18TH CENTURY

Estimate: 10,000 - 15,000 USD

Lot sold: 62,500 USD

DESCRIPTION

A LOUIS XV GILT AND PATINATED-BRONZE PENDULE A L'ÉLEPHANT, MID-18TH CENTURY

the dial signed *VIGER A PARIS*; the movement signed *Viger Paris no 665*
François Viger (Dienne circa 1708 - Paris 1784) master clockmaker 1744

Thierry de Maigret (Drouot Paris, 18 October 2017), master, circumference 27 cm

height 16 1/2 in.; width 12 in.; depth 7 in.

42 cm; 30.5 cm; 18 cm

CONDITION REPORT

In good conserved condition and ready to use. Scattered small age cracks and old repaired age splits to the sides commensurate with age and use, and a few patches and cracks to the tortoiseshell. Rubbing and minor losses to gilding and small scratches to the brass. Scuffs and age splits to feet. Mounts mostly re-gilt. A few chips to marble along back edge.

This condition report is provided to assist you with assessing the condition of the lot and is for guidance only. It is not a full description of condition. Images of the lot provided may not accurately reflect the actual condition of the lot. In particular, the images may represent colors and shades which are different than the lot's actual color and shades. This condition report may not make reference to all imperfections, restorations, or alterations. Sotheby's is not a professional conservator or restorer, and we urge you to consult with a restorer or conservator of your choice who will be better able to provide a detailed, professional report. Prospective buyers should inspect each lot to satisfy themselves as to condition and must understand that any statement made by Sotheby's is merely a subjective qualified opinion.

NOTWITHSTANDING THIS REPORT OR ANY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING CONDITION OF A LOT, ALL LOTS ARE OFFERED AND SOLD "AS IS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF SALE PRINTED IN THE CATALOGUE.

CATALOGUE NOTE

One distinctive aspect of the taste for exoticism in mid-18th century French decorative arts was an interest in the animal kingdom, and nowhere was this more evident than in designs for clock cases, which incorporated bulls, lions, rhinoceroses and most commonly elephants, as in the present lot. This particular model was very popular and was produced by several leading *bronziers* of the Louis XV period, notably Jean-Joseph de Saint Germain (Paris 1719-1791). The form appears to be based on elephants in Japanese export porcelain that began arriving in the West in the late 17th century and were later copied by Meissen and St Cloud (cf. a pair of Kakiemon elephants in Burghley House, England). Several variants of the design exist, all with the same elephant on a rockwork base but with different figures surmounting the clock case. The most commonly encountered cresting is a Chinese figure or monkey holding a parasol, seen for example on a clock with a movement by Jean-Baptiste Baillon in the Bamberg Residenz, illustrated in H. Ottomeyer et P. Pröschel, *Vergoldete Bronzen* (Munich 1986), Vol.I, p.124, fig.2.8.5; or alternatively a cherub holding a sundial, as in a version also with a movement by Viger and surmounting a music box, offered by the Prince de Ligne to Tournai Cathedral, illustrated in P. Verlet, *Les bronzes dorés français du XVIIIe siècle* (Paris, 1999), p.192, fig.219. A comparable The present lot is a rarer model, referred to in old inventories as a *pendule à l'échassier* and depicting a heron or wader surprised by a hound. A similar clock with movement by Baillon was in the Anna Thomson Dodge Collection, Rose Terrace, Grosse Point Farms, Michigan, sold Christie's London, 24 June 1971, lot 39, and two further *échassier* versions also with movements by Baillon include one sold Sotheby's Paris, 27 April 2017, lot 122, and another attributed to Saint-Germain sold Thierry de Maigret, Drouot Paris, 18 October 2017, lot 386.

To see our full Digital Catalogue, including videos and slideshows, please visit our website.

<https://www.sothebys.comhttps://www.sothebys.com/buy/auction/2019/the-gilded-age-revisited-property-from-a-distinguished-american-collection/>



THE GILDED AGE REVISITED: PROPERTY FROM A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN COLLECTION

Sotheby's ESTD
1744