

La Pendulerie



“Egyptian Bust” Bronze Candlesticks, Empire period

Pair of gilt and patinated bronze candlesticks with Egyptian busts

Paris, Empire period, circa 1805-1810

Height 31.5 cm; base 11 x 11 cm

Made of chased gilt and patinated bronze, this pair of candlesticks has stems sheathed in patinated bronze, decorated on each side with a low-relief of a caduceus with an entwined serpent, a cat and winged torches; above, two addorsed female busts of Egyptian women with nemes headdresses. They are topped by Ionic capitals surmounted by nozzles shaped as vases whose handles are formed as lion masks holding flaming oil lamps in their mouths, and drip pans with stylised palmette friezes. The lower portion of the stems, from which issue the feet of the figures, rest on square sloping bases decorated with winged male torsos and serpents. This pair of candlesticks was probably inspired by models created in Paris during the same period by Jean-Baptiste-Claude Odier. Several similar models are recorded, however they present variations: one pair was formerly in the René Fribourg collection (sold by Sotheby's, London, 25 June - 25 October 1963, lot 643); a second pair is illustrated in J. Bourne and V. Brett, *L'art du luminaire*, Paris, 1991, p. 146, fig. 494. Two identical pairs are known: the first was previously in the collection of Baron Fould-Springer and then that of Nathaniel de Rothschild (pictured in Souren Melikian, *La décoration*, Volume I, Hachette, Paris, 1963, p. 245); the second pair is illustrated in I. Sychev, *The Russian Chandeliers 1760-1830*, Editions PVBR, 2003, p. 134, fig. 633-634.