

La Pendulerie



Thomire

Victory bronze Candelabra, Empire Period
attributed to Pierre-Philippe Thomire (1751-1843)

A fine pair of Empire gilt and patinated bronze three-light candelabra "à la Victoire"

Paris, Empire Period, circa 1800-1805

Height 81 cm. each

A fine pair of Empire gilt and patinated bronze three-light candelabra "à la Victoire", the stem of each, formed as a classically-robed winged Victory whose uplifted arms support a lamp issuing from a pilaster placed upon her head and featuring three candle branches that terminate in vase-shaped candle nozzles with stylised flames. Each figure stands on a cylindrical anthemion-mounted and foliate-cast base that is supported by crouching griffons and rests upon on a shaped triangular green marble base.

These very fine and unusual candelabra relate to those made by renowned bronzier Pierre-Philippe Thomire (1751-1843), who created a similar pair today in the Metropolitan Museum, New York (illustrated in Hans Ottomeyer and Peter Pröschel, "Vergoldete Bronzen", 1986, p. 329, pl. 5.2.4).

Thomire's candelabra were inspired by designs of Napoleon's architects and ornamentalists Charles Percier (1764-1838) and Pierre François Léonard Fontaine (1762-1853), who in turn had been inspired by Antique statues of Victory (illustrated *ibid.*, p. 328, pl. 5.2.1 and p. 329, pl. 5.2.3 respectively).

A number of such figures were made during the early nineteenth century, produced by such artisans as

Italian artist and designer Filippo Pelagio Pelagi (1775-1860) whose designs for the winged female caryatid supports for a console, circa 1833-34, are today in the Biblioteca Archiginnasio Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe, Raccolta Disegni Palagi (inv. 2155) in Bologna. They are illustrated in G. Beretti, A. Cotiino, B. Gallizia di Vergano, L. Melegati, "Gli Splendori del Bronzo, Mobili e oggetti d'arredo tra Francia e Italia 1750 1850", 2002, p. 149, pl. 74.

Artist description:

Pierre-Philippe Thomire (1757-1843)

Having become a master founder on May 18, 1772, he was the most important Parisian bronzier of the first quarter of the 18th century and the early years of the following century. Initially he worked for Pierre Gouthière, chaser-founder to the king, and as of the mid-1770s he worked with Louis Prieur. He later became one of the official bronziers of the Royal Sèvres Factory, creating bronze he bought the stock of Martin-Eloi Lignereux and became the main supplier of bronze furnishings for the imperial palaces. He also had a number of wealthy several of Napoleon's marshals. He retired in the mid-1820s and died in 1843.