



*Auction in Paris – Hôtel Drouot  
9 rue Drouot – 75009 Paris*

**FRIDAY 15 MAY 2009 AT 2PM**

*Collection of Monsieur & Madame B.  
Charles X Furniture & Objets d'Art*





On Friday 15 May 2009, the Paris auction-house PIASA, assisted by expert Guillaume Dillée, will offer for sale an exceptional *collection of Charles X furniture and objets d'art*.

This **unique collection**, painstakingly assembled over thirty years by two enlightened connoisseurs, epitomizes lifestyle refinement, and is of outstanding quality and diversity.

Auctions of this nature occur but rarely. For previous sales of such importance we have to go back to the Castille Collection, with its array of Restoration and Charles X masterpieces, sold in Versailles in 1991; or the collection of Charles X furniture, opalines and objets d'art auctioned by Jean-Louis Picard at Drouot Montaigne in Paris in 1993.

The collection includes an harmonious ensemble of furniture from the reign of Charles X (1824-30), typified by mastery of the curve, contrasting light and dark woods, and recourse to precious materials (opaline, gilt bronze, cut crystal, mother-of-pearl etc.).

Highlights include a rare Charles X games-table veneered throughout in kingwood and speckled maplewood, complete with its original dice and playing pieces for chess, draughts and backgammon; a large bronze milestone clock signed *Lépine – Horloger du Roi*; a cathedral clock in chased bronze with two-tone gilding; a bronze Empire 18-branch basket chandelier; and a pair of six-branch candelabra in chased/gilded bronze and *bulle de savon* opaline.

The ensemble also includes a variety of snuff-boxes made from burr veneer, copper, tortoiseshell and embossed gold-paper; and a number of unusual objects including a *machine à réveil*, enabling a fob-watch to be transformed into an alarm-clock; a bronze candlestick with a flame-regulator to extinguish the candle automatically; a scallop-shaped *coffret nécessaire*; and a piano-shaped sewing-kit (*nécessaire à couture*) in palissandre and citronwood veneer with leafy scroll marquetry. Each *nécessaire* is complete, and bears the mention *Souvenir du Palais Royal*. A number of objects from the collection are reproduced in works of reference on the Charles X Period.

Part of the collection is devoted to historical Legitimist memorabilia, with a range of medallions, snuff-boxes, round boxes and pendants, many featuring *L'Enfant du Miracle* (the Miracle Child) – Charles X's grandson, officially known as the Duc de Bordeaux and later Comte de Chambord (after the château he received from Royalists to mark his christening).

To the delight of connoisseurs and collectors of the Charles X Period, this array of furniture and decorative items – also including writing cases, dance cards and an ink-well – will bring 1820s France back to life at Drouot on May 15. The ensemble of over 300 items, in perfect condition, pays tribute to the discerning eye of *Monsieur & Madame B.* and constitutes a landmark in the history of Charles X collecting.



*Rare Charles X games table veneered throughout in kingwood and speckled maplewood, adorned with rosettes, gryphons and foliage marquetry. Double-flap top with chess-board opens to reveal a games-table lined in green leather on four removable pegs. Two sliding side flaps hide compartments and playing pieces; a side lever releases a backgammon board. Rectangular end-supports on scrolled bases linked by a turned stretcher. With dice and pieces for chess, draughts and backgammon.*

*Estimate: €12,000-18,000*



*Splendid 18-branch Empire chased/gilded bronze & cut-crystal basket chandelier. Central crown adorned with open-winged swans bearing garlands of fruit and flowers within acanthus leaf scrolls.*

*Estimate: €12,000 / 18,000*



**Important Charles X clock** in chased, gilded and patinated bronze, featuring Virgil holding a stilet in one hand and a tablet engraved *Enéide Livre XI (Aeneid Book XI)* in the other. Dial signed LEPINE Horloger du Roi set within milestone decorated with swan, rosettes, lyres and crowns, above frieze portraying Virgil reading his works to Caesar Augustus (patron of poets) and his wife Livia. Movement chimes hours and half-hours.

Estimate: €8,000 / 10,000 €

**Rare Charles X candlestick** in finely chased, gilded and patinated bronze, with flame-regulator to extinguished candle automatically. Tray ringed with rosettes and palmettes, with oil lamp & snake handle; shaft with tiny classical vase & snuffer engraved *Bonne Nuit*.

Estimate: €4,000 / 6,000



**Charles X coffret nécessaire** (sewing kit) in the form of a wing-piano, in palissandre and citronnier veneer with leafy scroll and stylized keyboard marquetry. Interior with cord-framed mirror and removable tray containing scissors, seal, needle, bodkin, case, thimble and flacon à bleu, and the mention *Souvenir du Palais Royal*. Turned, removable legs.

Estimate: €10,000 / 12,000



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**VIEWING**

Thursday 14 May, 11am–6pm & Friday 15 May 2009, 11am–noon

**EXPERT**

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