

Piasa Auction Dec. 9 To Offer Fine Furniture & Objets D'Art

PARIS — Piasa will present a select auction of furniture and objets d'art on Friday, December 9, at Hotel Drouot, mainly featuring fine Eighteenth Century pieces. Piasa has achieved several auction records in this field in recent years.

One of the highlights in this sale is a pair of Chinese celadon porcelain vases with Louis XV gilt-bronze mounts. When such items appear at auction, it is invariably a major event in the eyes of international connoisseurs. These vases stand out for their pedigree, stretching back to the Eighteenth Century and the prestigious collection of the famous banker and art lover François-Michel Harenc de Presle (1710–1802).

Just as noteworthy is a commode by Charles Cressent, the most famous cabinetmaker of Louis XV's reign. This commode has remained in the same family since the Eighteenth Century, and is in unusually fine condition. Similar commodes can be found in some of the world's leading museums. Also offered is a richly carved Louis XV gilt-wood console once owned by François Coty, with a stretcher adorned with playful children. An earlier console table, with carved satyr-heads and a fine pair of Louis XV

fauteuils à châssis complete a giltwood ensemble.

Slightly earlier is an exuberant Louis XIV bureau Mazarin attributed to the recently rediscovered ebeniste Pierre Gole, who is said to have designed the very first bureau in the late Seventeenth Century. In contrast, a rolltop desk by Bernard Molitor embodies the restraint and refinement typical of French mahogany furniture in the late Eighteenth/early Nineteenth Centuries. Furniture by other celebrated cabinetmakers such as Dubois, Dautriche, Roussel, Wolff, Tilliard, Cresson and Boucault will also cross the block.

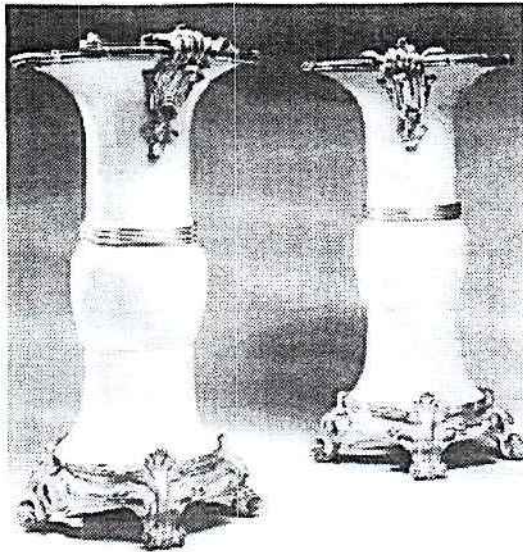
Gilt bronze items include a rare pair of Louis XVI wall lights attributed to the bronzier Jean-Louis Prieur, another unusual Louis XV pair of wall lights, adorned with porcelain flowers and a clock by Baillon mounted on a Chinese celadon porcelain horse.

Finally, the sale's sculpture section features a white marble bust from the workshop of Jean-Antoine Houdon, a terracotta self-portrait by the sculptor Jean-Henri Gathy (1750–1810), and a neoclassical figure by the great Toulouse sculptor François Lucas (1736–1813).

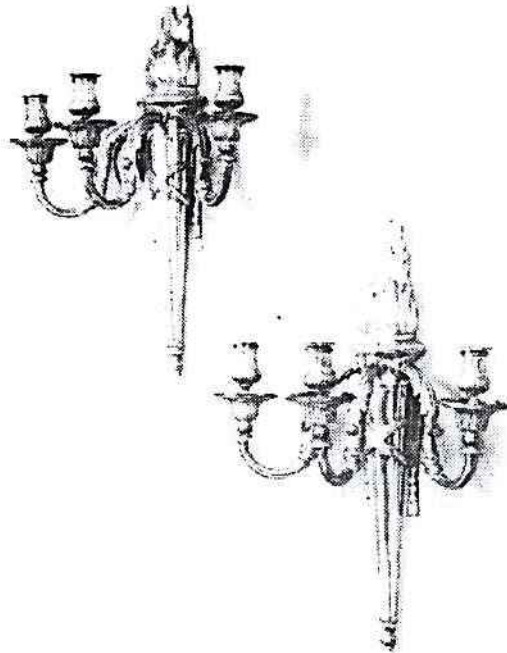
For information, 33 0 1 53 34 10 10 or www.piasa.fr



Louis XV satinwood and amaranth commode (circa 1740-45) by Charles Cressent (1685-1768), with two-drawer serpentine front decorated with crossed palm leaves, floral sprays and dragon handles. Provenance Comte de Vallin Collection from early Nineteenth Century, then by descent.



A pair of Chinese celadon porcelain vases with Louis XV gilt-bronze mounts will cross the block.



A set of six wall lights with just two arms with a similar design also attributed to Jean-Louis Prieur, can be found in the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. This rare pair by Prieur will be in the auction.