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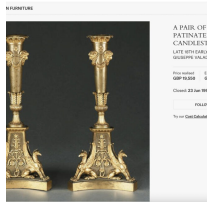
Antique Giuseppe Valadier: A Fine Italian Ormolu and Bronze Candlestick

£4,800

An exceptionally fine and rare Roman candlestick lamp attributed to Giuseppe Valadier, with a foliate out-swept nozzle above four flowerheads and three satyr's masks in patinated bronze, the tapering shaft on a foliate clasp and fluted foot above a concave-sided triangular base with patinated bronze griffins to each angle and foliate scrolls to each side, on a conforming stepped plinth, now raised on an ebonised base to form a lamp,

Wired with silk braided flex, this lamp can be wired in our workshop for use in any country.

SKU: C4277
Depth: 13 cm (5 inches)
Height: 56 cm (22 inches) including fittings. Height to top of candlestick including base: 36.5 cm
Width: 13 cm (5 inches)
Year: Italian. Late 18th century



Giuseppe Valadier (d. 1839), took over the workshop of his father Luigi (d. 1785) on the latter's death. The firm had been founded in 1725 by his grandfather Andrea and was sold only in 1827, having been the leading silversmith and bronze-founders of Rome for a century.

The design of these griffin-supported candlesticks can be related to an engraving of a vase with griffin-supports by Giovanni Battista Piranesi which is in his *Vasi, candelabri, cippi, sarcofagi, tripodi lucerne ed ornamenti antichi disegnati ed incisi dal Cav. Gio. Batt. Piranesi*, Rome, 1778 (J. Wilton-Ely, *Giovanni Battista Piranesi,* San Francisco, 1994, p. 999, plate 921). The design is further even more closely related to a torchere with a similarly placed griffin as support in Piranesi's *Diverse maniere d'adornare i cammini ed ogni altra parte degli edifizi desunte dall'architettura egizia, etrusca, greca. Presentate a monsign. D. Giovambatista Rezzonico*..., Rome, 1769 (Wilton-Ely, *op. cit*., p. 952, plate 879) and to a design by Andrea Appiani for a torchere with three griffins on a circular base supporting a flaming dish (G. Morazzoni, *Il Mobile Intarsiato di Guiseppe Maggiolini*, Milan, 1957, plate LXXXIV).

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A pair of candlesticks of the same model, though entirely gilt, were sold at Christies, London, 23 Jun 1999, lot 75 (£19,500). A further single example in ormolu and patinated bronze, like the offered example, and possibly even the pair to the offered example was offered by Dalva Brothers of New York

An ormolu encrier in the form of a Roman sarcophagus supported by four identical griffins was offered anonymously at Semenzato, Palazzo Romano, Rome, 11-16 October 1997, lot 82.