

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ANIMAL
BRONZES BY CELEBRATED FRENCH SCULPTOR ANTOINE-LOUIS BARYE**

A Previously Unrecorded Private Collection Brings Several of the Sculptor's Lost Master Bronzes to Light

*An Important Private Collection of Barye Bronzes, including Rediscovered Modèles from the Sculptor's
Atelier Sale*

April 25, 2003

New York, NY – On April 25, Christie's will offer a previously undocumented private collection of 160 bronzes by the foremost 19th century animalier sculptor, Antoine-Louis Barye. The highlight of the sale will be 14 modèles, or master bronzes, which were sold in the 1876 Barye atelier sale, but whose whereabouts have been unknown for at least the last 75 years. Its museum quality, size and breadth make this one of the most outstanding collections of Barye bronzes to come to auction.

The collection was assembled during the early 20th century by Eduardo Guinle, a wealthy Brazilian industrialist and national representative for major overseas companies, such as General Electric and Otis Elevators. In 1909, Guinle built a mansion in Rio, known as the Palácio Laranjeiras, and rapidly filled it with important European art, including nearly 200 Barye bronzes, purchased principally from major private collection sales in Paris.

The Collection

The 14 modèles are unique first impressions in bronze, created from Barye's original wax or clay models, and used as molds for casting subsequent editions. All of the modèles have heavily-worked surfaces, characteristic of his work, and many are sand-cast in several sections with protruding assembly pins and sockets. Most of the modèles also display their lot number from the 1876 atelier sale on the underside.

Three modèles that are offered in the sale are particularly significant of Barye's oeuvre. *Chasse à l'élan* (The Elk Hunt) (estimate: \$100,000–150,000) is the prototype for Barye's most celebrated commission, a massive table centerpiece, consisting of five large hunting groups. Ordered by the duc d'Orléans in 1834 but dispersed in 1853, the entire *surtout de table* was re-united later in the century for the great American collector, W. T. Walters, and today forms the focal point of the unrivalled collection of Barye bronzes in the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore. The five hunting groups were almost certainly cast by Honoré Gonon, the great early 19th century *fondeur*, and *Chasse à l'élan* is the only bronze modèle to have ever come to light.

Among Barye's most enduring icons are the noteworthy master bronzes, *Thésée combattant le Minotaure* (Theseus slaying the Minotaur) (estimate: \$40,000–60,000) and *Guerrier tartare arrêtant son cheval* (Tartar warrior checking his horse) (estimate: \$20,000–30,000), which were two of the most hotly contested lots in the 1876 atelier sale. The two modèles were purchased with casting rights by the celebrated *fondeur*, Ferdinand Barbedienne, and like many of Barye's modèles, they later formed part of the Zoubaloff Collection, much of which is now in the Louvre, Paris.

Other Highlights

Apart from the academically important modèles, the collection is comprised primarily of lifetime casts, or *épreuves anciennes*, which incorporate the variety of patinas and rich detailing associated with Barye's atelier. These modèles are far more sought-after by Barye collectors than the prolific posthumous editions of the sculptor's works. A fine example is an exceptional cast of one of Barye's most dramatic works, *Angélique et Roger montés sur l'hippogriffe* (Roger abducting Angelica on the Hippogriff) (estimate: \$60,000–80,000).

Auction: An Important Private Collection of Barye Bronzes, April 25
including rediscovered modèles from the sculptor's atelier sale

Viewing: Christie's Paris, 9 Avenue Matignon	March 6 – 10
Christie's London, 8 King St.	March 16 – 20
Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center	April 18 – April 24

More information about Christie's sale of An Important Private Collection of Barye Bronzes, including rediscovered modèles from the sculptor's atelier sale can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

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Images available upon request
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