

UPCOMING

The French **18th century** takes a trip to London

After its successes in Paris and Geneva, the new Europ Auction house is now setting out to conquer the British capital. London and its French furniture collectors: a tradition on the banks of the Thames that the sales expert, Camille Burgi, intends to revive. To carry out this campaign, the auction house is sending a splendid cavalry proudly bearing the banner of French good taste. For this jaunt, some 120 lots will be brought together from various provenances, including a number of "museum quality" items. The list includes some great 18th century names, as witness a salon table stamped by BVRB, a Dutch-born cabinetmaker now known as Bernard Van Riesen Burgh, one of the greatest masters of the Classical tradition. Ornamented with Japanese lacquer and perched on elegant legs, the little table comes from the seigneurie of Ivry-sur-Seine (€500,000/600,000). Another choice item is a flat mahogany desk stamped by Jacob D.R. Meslée (€500,000/600,000). This has a celebrated provenance,

Salon table stamped B.V.R.B, Bernard II Van Risen Burgh, decorated with gold Japanese lacquer on a black background. Estimate: €500,000/600,000.



USEFUL INFO

Where ?	London - Claridge's Hotel
When ?	6 May
Who ?	Europ Auction auction house. Mr. Bürgi
How much ?	€8 M

See the catalogue : www.gazette-drouot.com

as it consists of the collection of a descendant of Jérôme Napoleon, the Emperor's brother, and of his son Victor. Another star – and a glittering one at that – is the flat desk in darkened wood stamped by Jacques Dubois, with a Chinese lacquer decoration. It will be recalled that a bureau very like it attributed to the cabinetmaker, sold during the dispersion of the Alexander collection at Christie's in New York, fetched over one million euros... That was in April 1999, and was a purchase by the owner of the LVMH luxury goods group, Bernard Arnault. Ah, French taste is quite something, n'est-ce pas!

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