

**A Louis XVI ormolu-mounted mahogany commode *a l'anglaise*, attributed to Claude Charles Saunier, Circa 1785.**

The eared D-shaped grey-veined white marble top with pierced three-quarter gallery, above a panelled frieze with alternating long leaves and husks, the frieze drawer flanked by a pair of spring-loaded compartments, above an entrelac border and two drawers sans traverse mounted with beaded panels and an apron with ribbon-tied tasselled swags, the sides each with two open marble shelves with pierced trefoil galleries, the rounded angles with lapped capitals hung with ribbon-tied tasselled laurel swags above beaded flutes, on turned tapering legs with ormolu caps; restorations to the marble, the apron mount re-supported.

Height: 36¼ in. (92 cm)  
Width: 57½ in. (146 cm)  
Depth: 20¾ in. (52,5 cm)

**Provenance:**

Anonymous sale; Paris, Palais Galleria (Mes Ader Picard), 28 November 1972, lot 50.  
Anonymous sale; Christie's London, 12 June 1997, lot 70.  
Private collection Eaton Square, London

Claude-Charles Saunier, maître in 1752.

This commode à l'anglaise relates to the oeuvre supplied by the celebrated marchand-mercier Dominique Daguerre. Heir to Simon-Philippe Poirier's (d. 1785) atelier, Daguerre specialised in supplying objets de luxe to the French Court and, after the Revolution, to the English nobility. Based in the rue St. Honoré, as his trade label reveals he 'Tient Magasin de Porcelaines, Bronzes, Ebénisterie, Glaces, Curiosités, & autres Marchandises'. In 1786, Daguerre signed an exclusive agreement with Josiah Wedgwood to sell Wedgwood's jasperware in France, and in the following year he was commissioned to supply the furnishings for George, Prince of Wales at Carlton House under the direction of Henry Holland.

Opening a shop in Piccadilly, Daguerre was patronised by, amongst others the Duke of York, Lady Holderness, the 5th Duke of Bedford and the 2nd Earl Spencer. This latter commission included a pair of consoles dessertes, described in Daguerre's bill of 31 May 1791 as 'Deux Consoles en Bois d'acajou avec tablettes de marbre entre les Pieds, garni de frieze mouleur et autres Bronzes doré d'or moulu, les Dessus en marbre Blanc à 960 - 1920 livres'. Executed by the ébéniste Claude-Charles Saunier, they are of related form and display a very similar canaux et tigettes frieze (F.J.B. Watson, *Louis XVI Furniture*, London, 1960, fig. 145). This frieze and form is, however, by no means exclusive to Saunier and can also be seen on the console desserte by Weisweiler illustrated in P. Lemonnier, *Weisweiler*, Paris, 1983, p. 80.

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The distinctive drapery-swagged and ribbon-tied apron-mount also features on a 'commode à l'anglaise' and matching encoignures by Saunier decorated with Japanese lacquer (A. Pradère, *French Furniture Makers*, Paris, 1989, pp. 365-6, figs. 433 & 434). Likewise, however, this mount can also be seen in Martin Carlin's oeuvre.

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