

**An important set of eight North-Italian Royal Restoration cream-lacquered and parcel-gilt walnut stools, designed by Carlo Randoni (Turin 1755-1831), probably executed by Francesco Picasso.
Genoa 1820-1821.**

The seat-rails carved with rosettes and acanthus, on tapering legs with bun feet, upholstered in pale green and cream silk with floral wreaths and swags, the decoration refreshed

Height: 18 ½ in. (47 cm)

Wight: 17 ½ in. (44,5 cm)

Depth: 18 in. (45 ,5cm)

Provenance:

Grimaldi Doria Tursi Palace, Savoy Royal Residence in Genoa, 1820-1821.
Collection Pisa, Italy, until sold at auction, 'Raccolta Pisa', Milan, 1937.
Anonymous European private collection.

Literature:

- E.Colle, *Il Mobile Impero in Italia, arredi e decorazioni d'interni dal 1800 al 1843*, Milan, 1998, pp. 260-261 (concerning a sofa, six chairs and two open armchairs of the same suite now in the Napoleonic residence in Elba island).
- Giuseppe Battista Piacenza e Carlo Randoni. *I Reali Palazzi fra Torino e Genova. 1773-1831*, Paolo Cornaglia, 2012, Turin, p.227 (with Randoni documents concerning the all suite)

In 1819 the Savoy Royal couple, Vittorio Emanuele I and Maria Tessa d'Asburgo Este bought the Grimaldi-Doria Tursi Palace as their principal Genoese royal residence, now it is the townhall of the city. As first architect of the court Carlo Randoni designed all the new furniture including these stools for the anti cappella room, they were probably executed in the two following years by the Genoese sculptor Francesco Picasso. Surviving pieces of the same suite formerly part of Pisa collection until 1937 are another pair formerly in the New York market, a fantastic short bench now in our stock, another similar and less interesting pair of longer benches recently appeared in the London market, few armchairs and sofas in the Napoleonic residence of Villa dei Mulini, Porto Ferraio, Elba island (Tuscany, Italy); one sofa still in the original Royal collections at Stupinigi Royal Castle, Museo dell'Ammobiliamento, sala dei cimeli napoleonici, Turin and another sofa in the Fenice Opera theatre, Venice.

Please note that from the same suite of furniture, two armchairs, five chairs and six identical stools, also designed by Carlo Randoni for the same Genoese Royal palace, are now in Attingham Park, Shropshire, (that after eight generations of the Berwick family, it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1947).

BURZIO.

They are there since 1833, when William Noel-Hill 3rd Baron of Berwick of Attingham as (1772-1842) he was the English ambassador in the Savoy Kingdom bought in Genoa a large part of Doria Tursi interiors.
All this group has been rediscovered by Wolf Burchard, associated curator in Met museum.

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