

A beautiful mahogany Armchair and golden bronzes, rectangular flat back, lotus leaf decoration, cords and wavy windings on the sides; ornamentation of gilded bronzes with foliage and rosettes; resting on circular feet at the front and saber at the back.

Attributed to Jacob-Desmaller.
Paris First half XIX Century.

Height: 36,22 in. (92 cm)
Width: 17,71 in. (45 cm)



This armchair, which retains its ornamentation of gilded bronzes corresponding to the richest models made in mahogany under the Empire, is a variant of the famous gilt wood furniture delivered to the room of Empress Marie-Louise in Compiègne in 1809 by François -Honoré-Georges Jacob-Desmaller. This apartment had been refurbished lavishly under the direction of the architect Louis-Martin Berthault (1767-1823) between 1808 and 1810, including calling, besides Jacob-Desmaller for furniture, Ambroise-Joseph Thelene for woodwork, and at the Dubois and Redouté workshop for painted decorations.

François-Honoré-Georges Jacob-Desmaller (1770-1841), was the favourite cabinet-maker of Napoleon, was the son Georges Jacob. He took over the family's workshop in 1796, together with his brother Georges and the firm became known as Jacob Frères and remained in rue Mesaly or Meslée until 1825. Amongst Jacob-Desmaller's first commissions, was the decoration and furnishing of the town house of General Bonaparte and his wife Josephine in the rue Chantreine and the surviving furniture illustrates the patriotic and symbolic tastes which were so characteristic of the Directoire period heralding the Empire style. His next major commission was for the Récamières, important and influential French bankers. At about the same time the firm was commissioned to decorate and furnish Malamaison, by Percier and Fontaine, which was the country retreat of Josephine. The firm also provided furniture for Bonaparte's apartments at the Tuileries and also exhibited at the second and third Expositions des Produits de l'Industrie Française held in 1801 and 1802 in the courtyard of the Louvre and Jacob-Desmaller received a Gold Medal at the 1802 exhibition.

Literature:

- Denise Ledoux-Lebard, *Les Ebenistes du XIX siècle*, Paris, 1965, illustrated pp. 267-360.