

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

The pierced back carved with a medallion and swags flanked by reeded uprights, above a rectangular padded seat covered in gold silk fabric, on foliate frieze with turned tapering legs. Cleaned with a few little restorations to the gilding.

Height: 39,37 in. (100 cm)

Wight: 34,64 in. (88 cm)

Depth: 26,37 in. (67cm)



#### **Provenance:**

Grimaldi Doria Tursi palace, Savoy Royal Residence in Genoa, 1820-1821.  
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 RealiPalazzi fra Torino e Genova. 1773-1831*, Paolo Cornaglia, 2012, Turin, p.227 (with Randoni documents concerning the all suite)
- Alvar Gonzalez Palacios, *Il Mobile in Liguria*, Genoa 1996, p.323 (for a similar later related example still in the Royal Palace in Genoa).

In 1819 the Savoy Royal couple, Vittorio Emanuele I and Maria Teresa d'Asburgo Este bought the Grimaldi-Doria Tursi Palace as their principal Genoese Royal residence (now the townhall of the city).

As first architect of the court Carlo Randoni designed all the new furniture including this bench for the anti cappella room, it was 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 1938, including a sofa, six chairs and two open armchairs are now in the Napoleonic residence of Villa dei Mulini, Porto Ferraio, Elba Island; one sofa is still in the original Royal Collections at Stupinigi Royal Castle, *Museo dell'Ammobiliamento, sala dei cimeli Napoleonici*, Turin and an other sofa has been recorded in the Fenice Opera Theatre, Venice.

Please note that some other similar furniture, also designed by Carlo Randoni for the same Genoese Royal palace, it is now in Attingham Park, Shropshire, (that after eight generations of the Berwick family, it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1947) All this group, has been rediscovered by Wolf Burchard, associated curator in Met museum.