

A pair of Orléans, manufacture de Gérault d'Areaubert, soft-paste biscuit porcelain busts of Rousseau and Voltaire, both on a detachable flared classical socles. Circa 1765.

Traditionally attributed to Tournai, Cyrille Froissart identified the busts as Orléans porcelain in a paper for the French Porcelain Society, see Cyrille Froissart, *The Orléans Porcelain Manufactory: its production of soft paste groups and figures*, in *The French Porcelain Society Journal*, II (2005), pp. 76f and fig.26.



Height: Voltaire 9,64 in. (24.5 cm)

Height: Rousseau 9,05 in. (23 cm)

Condition report: minor chips.

Bust of François-Marie Arouet, called Voltaire (1694-1778), French writer and philosopher, incised 33; wearing a loose shirt with ruff and cloak, his head, shown without wig, turned slightly to left, features carefully modelled.

Bust of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, (1712-1778), French philosopher, writer, composer and musical theorist; wearing a fur-lined coat and open-necked shirt.

Literature:

Cyrille Froissart, *The Orléans Porcelain Manufactory: its production of soft past groups and figures*, *The French Porcelain Society Journal*, Vol. II -2005, p.80, fig.26.

The Orléans Porcelain Manufactory was a French centre of ceramic production.

At the Royal decree of 1753 authorized Dessaux de Romilly (d1757), director of the glass of factories in Saint-Gobain, to establish "*Manufacture Royale de Fayance en terre blanche purifiée*" in the French city of Orléans.

So, after it was founded, the factory also began to produce soft-paste porcelain.

In 1757 Charles-Claude Guerault-D'Araubert became the owner of the factory, until his death in 1782.

The wares, which included both functional items and the figures, were slightly heavy in form and were made from a beautiful, translucent creamy-white past, which was similar to that of Mennecy and Sceaux.

In 1768 the factory also began to produce hard-past porcelain.

Figures, functional items and flowers, which were painted with extreme care, formed the basis of this production.

After the death of d'Areaubert, however, the factory was closed.

In 1788 Bourdon du Saussey founded a new factory; this was taken over 1803 by Barlois & Dabot and the double and then in 1806 by Benoist Lebrun (1754-1819) who designed new forms and the decoration.

BURZIO.

In 1793 Francois Moliere-Bardin (fl 1793-1810), a faience-maker, produced some items in porcelain. In 1812 the Benoist Lebrun factory closed and signaling the end of porcelain production in Orléans.

The products of this factory are very rare, especially the soft-paste porcelains that were made until 1770.

Few names of artists who worked in Orléans are known to us; they are: Jean Louis author of figures and Bernard Huet sculptor, author of models; Jean Louis Malfart; Pierre Renault; Toussaint-Macherot and Claude Roger who worked in majolica and porcelain.