

## **The Viceroy of Savoy Neoclassical Armchairs.**

**A Pair of Italian Louis XVI wood carved painted and parcel gilt armchairs by Bartolomeo Manghetti, with their original Turin tapestry as upholstery, executed in Turin around 1780 after the model of Sulpice Brizard for Carlo Francesco Valperga Count of Masino, Marquis of Caluso.**

Provenance:

Palazzo Masino, Turin, 1780 circa.

Pietro Accorsi, 1960's.

Turinese private collection.

These important chairs relate to a larger suite of seat furniture executed by Manghetti and supplied for the Turin Palace of the Viceroy of Savoy Kingdom in via Arsenale with Via Afieri, with the help of Architect Filippo Castelli who brings from Paris to Turin as model a chair and a very similar armchair executed by Sulpice Brizard(1737-1804) Maitre le 22 Juillet 1772 a Paris.

The Valperga Masino family was one of the oldest, wealthiest and most prestigious families of the Italian nobility. For ten centuries the primary residence of the Valperga's was Masino Castle, with halls frescoed and richly furnished in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Madama Reale apartments, decorative salons and a Chapel holding the ashes of Arduino d'Ivrea, King of Italy in the 11th century, all bore testament to the opulent tastes of the family.

Conte Carlo Francesco Valperga Masino, was Savoy Ministro Plenipotenziario in Portugal and the Ambassador of Sardinia Kingdom in Spain before was elected Viceroy, after this nomination he bought the Turin Palace from the Duke of Broglia and refurbished it as his Castle during the second half of 18th Century in the fashionable Louis XVI Style. The last of the principal line, Conte Carlo Francesco

Valperga di Masino died in 1845 leaving no descendants. His wife and heir, Contessa Eufrasia then passed away four years later leaving much of the land, the Castle of Masino and the residence in Turin, as well as the family titles to Conte Luigi.

## Comparative Literature

G.Ferraris, giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo e la scultura decorativa in legno a Torino nel periodo neoclassico(1770-1830). Turin, 1991, pag.131-132 pag.133,134 Documento M1,M4 and M7 Illustrazioni C,CI,CII, CIII, CIV. Pag.XXXII, Tav.33 where is illustrated the chair en suite.

Roberto Antonetto, Il Mobile Piemontese nel Settecento, Volume Primo, Le firme, Allemandi, Torino, 2010. Pag.394-397, pag.397. 2. Tav.2.a where is illustrated the same Armchair without the original upholstery still in Viceroy bedroom at Masino Castle in Caravino (Turin).

## BARTOLOMEO MANGHETTI.

Manghetti originated from the Foresto Municipality of Lombardy before moving to Turin and was awarded maestro minusiere from the Universita' dei Minusieri on the 6th July 1786. Prior to this however, he already worked for the Royal House of Savoy when in 1775 he made the carving for trumeau at Castello di Moncalieri. Manghetti appeared to have been main mobiliere documented for supplying furniture to the Viceroy of Sardinia – Conte Francesco Valperga, Conte di Masino, when work began in 1780 renovating the interior and exterior of his city Palace in Turin. The Palace was to be remodelled into two apartments and to retain the character of the Castello di Masino, the Architect Filippo Castelli and Carlo Randoni were employed, meanwhile the furnishings and decoration were carried out by cabinet-maker giuseppe Viglione and craftsmen including Francesco Bozzelli, Angelo Maria Pellegrino and Bartolomeo Manghetti.

# BURZIO.

Various pieces had been commissioned from commodes to suites of seat furniture. Some of the armchairs can now be seen at the Castello di Masino – in the music room of the Queen's Apartment and precisely the same armchair without the original tapestry as upholstery in the bedroom of those belonging to the Viceroy himself.



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