



## COLLECTION GEORGES PETIT – AUCTION CATALOGUE FROM THE SALE OF THE MAJOR FRENCH ART DEALER’S PRIVATE COLLECTION

The owner of Galerie Georges Petit in Paris, French art dealer Georges Petit (1856-1920) was one of the most significant figures in the promotion of French Impressionism. Upon his death in 1920, his private collection of paintings, drawings, sculpture, and decorative arts was sold at a 1921 auction at his gallery. This hardbound, illustrated catalogue outlines the works in his collection, but this copy is particularly significant.

*Catalogue des Tableaux Modernes Aquarelles, Pastels, Dessins Bronzes de Barye Objets d'Art & d'Ameublement du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle et autres Porcelaines de Chine et de Saxe – Orfèvrerie Buste en Plâtre par Houdon Sculptures par Clodion, Gautier, Nini, etc. Bronzes - Pendules Sièges et Meubles Composant la Collection Georges Petit. Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, March 4-5, 1921. Hardcover. Illustrated. 100 pages, 219 lots.*

During Petit’s lifetime, his gallery held major exhibitions by the likes of Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, Auguste Rodin, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, and Auguste Renoir. He has been called the “apotheosis” of Impressionist art dealers<sup>1</sup> and had a fierce rivalry with fellow dealer Paul Durand-Ruel. His gallery also hosted many important auctions, including numerous significant estate sales. The enterprise was started by Petit’s father, François Petit, as Galerie François Petit in 1846. Georges took over the already-successful business in 1877 after his father’s death. He ran the gallery until his own death in 1920, at which time it was taken over by dealers Étienne Bignou, Gaston Bernheim Jeune, and Josse Bernheim Jeune, and director Georges Keller. This group ran the gallery until its closure in 1932.<sup>2</sup>

Notable works in the sale include watercolors and drawings by Delacroix and Rousseau, paintings by Corot, Monet, Pissarro, and Sisley, bronzes by Barye, and a sculpture by Houdon. Newspaper clippings recording the results of the sale, including prices, have been pasted into the first few blank pages of the catalogue. Another newspaper account of the sale is included but not attached. Also attached is an original black-and-white photograph of Petit at the auctioneer’s stand. The reverse side of the photograph’s backing is inscribed by Petit’s friend and fellow art dealer Edward Brandus (1857-1937). “Mon ami – Georges Petit – ne á Paris le 10 Mars 1856 décédé 13 Mai 1920 – Nous étions comarades dans la meme classe au Collège Chasital en 1864 E Brandus”. This rare catalogue has an antique binding, which shows minor wear, and a leather spine with gilt lettering. Very good condition overall. A rare and personalized view into the private collection of France’s most important auctioneer.

**\$500.00**

NOTES:

1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges\\_Petit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Petit)

2. *ibid*, <http://research.frick.org/directoryweb/browserecord.php?-action=browse&-recid=6342>, &  
[http://www.whistler.arts.gla.ac.uk/correspondence/people/biog/?bid=Peti\\_G&firstname=&surname=petit](http://www.whistler.arts.gla.ac.uk/correspondence/people/biog/?bid=Peti_G&firstname=&surname=petit)

