



RARE PARTIAL TEA SERVICE, PATINATED AND GILT COPPER.

Russia, Ural, Demidoff Copper Manufactory, c. 1770.

Patinated, chased copper with parcel gilding. Landscape motifs with tendril and rocaille decoration in between exotic birds and with gilt borders with foliate and scroll motifs. Comprising: Two tea caddies and a tray on three feet, the centre with a chased cartouche with putto.

H 15.5 cm, D 22.5 cm. (3)

Provenance: Swiss private collection. Both tea caddies and the tray are most likely parts of a tea set from the Demidoff Manufactory that was formerly in the Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé collection (Provenance Galerie Kugel, Paris)

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and was sold in 2009 at Christie's in Paris (Christie's, Collection Yves Saint Laurent et Pierre Bergé, Paris, 23-25 February 2009, Lot 184). The Demidoff dynasty, one of the wealthiest families of the Russian Tsarist Empire, was ennobled under Peter the Great. Until the 19th century, they were among the most important industrialists of Russia. Most of the copper mines in the Urals were owned by the Demidoffs, who in addition to copper also mined iron for the weapons of the Russian army, silver as well as precious and semi-precious stones, and thus achieved considerable wealth. From the middle of the 18th century, workshops were established for the production of domestic utensils, as well as tea and coffee pots, which were decorated with chased Rococo motifs and parcel gilt, as in the present example. The family, who mainly resided in Paris and Florence, also possessed a large art collection, primarily assembled by Anatole Demidoff, with a focus on French masters of the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as 18th century furniture. These works of art were sold in several auctions until 1880, as evidenced by a series of catalogs of that period (cf. Catalogue de la vente de tableaux anciens et modernes, objets d'art et de curiosités, provenant de la collection San Donato, appartenant au prince Anatole Demidoff, du 1er au 3 avril 1869).

CHF 10 000 / 15 000

€ 10 310 / 15 460

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