

THE WATCH OF PRINCE NAPOLÉON-JÉRÔME BONAPARTE,  
DESIGNED BY CZAPEK – THE FIRST ASSOCIATE OF PATEK  
AND KEPT IN THE SAME FAMILY SINCE THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY,  
TO BE AUCTIONED AT HÔTEL DROUOT



Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
Hôtel Drouot



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**IT IS THE ONLY KNOWN WATCH TO COMBINE  
A RARE COMPLICATION WITH GRISAILLE MINIATURE**

**AUDAP & ASSOCIÉS, AUCTION ON MAY 15, 2024**

On May 15th at Hôtel Drouot, Audap & Associés will offer at auction the watch designed by Czapek for Prince Napoléon-Jérôme Bonaparte (estimate: €20,000-€40,000). The timepiece, presented in its original case, has been kept in the same family since the 19th century. The back of the watch is adorned with a grisaille enamel portrait of the prince by Charles-Louis-François Glardon, known as Glardon-Leubel (1825 – 1887).

The piece is surely one of the most incredible discoveries of the past few years for lovers of Czapek's complicated watches. It is the only timepiece equipped with a rare complication – the diabolotone – as part of its chronograph mechanism, in addition to featuring a grisaille enamel miniature.

The case makes reference to Princess Clothilde, who married Prince Napoléon-Jérôme in 1859, placing the date of creation of this watch between 1859 and the end of the Second Empire in 1870. Only recently rediscovered, this poignant testimonial to history will appeal to historical antiques amateurs as much as watch collectors.

## **CZAPEK & PATEK**

Czapek was one of the most gifted watchmakers of his generation. Moreover, he was the first associate of Antoine Norbert de Patek. The two Polish refugees emigrated to Geneva in 1836 and founded a manufacture named Patek Czapek & Cie in 1839. In their six years of collaboration – during which they would craft exceptional timepieces –, the company became the famous Maison Patek Philippe.

## **A PORTRAIT OF PRINCE NAPOLÉON ATTRIBUTED TO GLARDON**

Charles-Louis-François Glardon, known as Glardon-Leubel (1825 - 1887), was a Geneva-born enamel miniature painter. He quickly mastered the photographic enamel technique, but he decided to maintain his approach in the realm of fine art. His process involved first carefully studying his subject and then using a photograph as a “base” for his miniature painting.

The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire of Geneva holds a remarkable portrait of the collector and patron Gustave Revilliod in a morning suit which is comparable to the portrait of Prince Napoléon-Jérôme.

Glardon's works were sought-after by the greatest watchmakers of his time, as demonstrated by the portrait of Louise, Queen of Denmark, that he executed on the Patek Philippe watch which is now kept at the Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva.



CZAPEK & Cie, Genève  
Demi-Chronomètre  
Mid 19<sup>e</sup> century

Gold present watch bearing the effigy of Prince Napoléon-Jérôme with  
double date and chronophage known as a diablotine

Estimation : € 20.000 - 40.000



## THE DIABLOTINE: A RARE COMPLICATION

The diablotine, also known as jumping seconds, indicates the fifth of a second. The watch also features a dual date display for the date and day of the week. There is only one similar watch that is known to still exist to date, and it was sold at auction in 1991 in Hong Kong.

## PRINCE NAPOLÉON-JÉRÔME BONAPARTE

Prince Napoléon-Jérôme was born on September 9, 1822 in Trieste, and he died on March 17, 1891 in Rome. Son of Jérôme Bonaparte and first cousin of Emperor Napoleon III, he was a political and military figure of the Second Empire. At the time he was known as "Prince Napoleon".

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## COLLECTIONS & SELECTED WORKS

Auction - Hôtel Drouot - 9 rue Drouot Paris 9<sup>e</sup>  
Room 6 - Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 1:30 PM

Public Exhibition :  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 11am to 6pm  
Sale morning from 11am to 12pm

[+ More info](#)

### Press Contact

Sophie DUFRESNE  
+33 1 48 00 20 71 | +33 6 35 03 49 87  
sdufresne@drouot.com

### Press Contact

Claire JEHL  
+33 1 48 00 20 37 | +33 6 49 60 11 51  
cjehl@drouot.com

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### About Drouot

Comprising several subsidiaries, Groupe Drouot is a key player in the art market. Hôtel Drouot, located in the heart of Paris, has been the world's largest public auction house since 1852. 15 auction rooms are available to more than 70 auction houses, which organized 800 sales in 2023 for total proceeds of €378m. The group's digital platform, Drouot.com, is continental Europe's leading marketplace for Fine Art and Collectibles auctions. Drouot.com broadcast 6,300 Live sales (live broadcast and participation in auctions) and 1,430 Online-only sales (dematerialized auctions) for total sales revenue of €344 million. The 785 auction houses publishing sales on the platform offered more than 3 million items. Auction news is relayed every week by La Gazette Drouot, the benchmark art and heritage weekly published by Auctionspress.

