



DORÉ, Gustave

Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin 1832 - Paris 1883

Maker: Thiébaut

Le Poème de la Vigne (58 Amours, 7 Bacchantes, 4 Satyres, 1 Silène et un assortiment des ennemis de la Vigne, insectes, rongeurs et reptiles)

The Vintage Vase (58 Cupids, 7 Bacchants, 4 Satyrs, 1 Silene and ennemis of the Vine: insects, rodents and reptiles)

1877-1878, cast in 1882

bronze

type: other

156 x 82 x 82 (11 feet)

Acc. No.: 53696

Credit Line: Gift of M.H. de Young

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[San Francisco, California, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Legion of Honor](#)

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Provenance

- 1882, bronze cast to the order of Doré by Thiébaut Frères
- 1893, Thiébaut sends it to the Chicago Exposition
- 1894, Thiébaut sends it to the San Francisco Exposition hoping to sell it because he had not been paid by Doré (who died in 1883)
- 1894 or 1895, M.H. de Young, organizer of the exposition, buys it
- 1931, M.H. de Young gives it to the museum

Bibliography

- <http://e-monumen.net/patrimoine-monumental/gustave-dore-vase-golden-gate-park-san-francisco/>, accessed 15 January 2015

1987 [San Francisco]

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Selected Works, San Francisco, The Fine Arts Museums, 1987, p. 51, repr.

Exhibitions

- 1893 Chicago
World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, May 1-October 30, 1893

1894 San Francisco

California Midwinter International Exposition, San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, commissaire général : M.H. de Young, January 27 - July 5 1894

Related works

- Plaster exhibited in Paris at the Salon of 1878 and in the Exposition universelle of 1878, destroyed in Reims in 1917.

Comment

Museum's text, September 2012:

Gustave Doré, best known as a painter and illustrator, tried his hand at sculpture in 1871, producing a number of highly original works. His *Poème de la Vigne* was perhaps inspired by such 18th-century romantic fantasies as Clodion's project for the Montgolfier Balloon Monument of 1784-1785. The eleven-foot-tall vase was an ambition undertaking both artistically and technically. Covered with bacchic figures, it was a sculptural realization of *La dive bouteille*, designed by Doré to illustrate the works of Rabelais, published in 1854 and engraved by Paul Jonnard-Pacel. Doré's critics received the sculpture as a bizarre curiosity. The plaster model, now lost, was exhibited in the Salon of 1878 and the Paris Exposition Universelle of that year. It was not reproduced in bronze until 1882, at a great cost to the artist himself. However, the artist had not paid the foundry at the time of his death, and Thiébaud Frères attempted to sell the piece at the Columbian International Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. The attempt was unsuccessful and the piece was sent to San Francisco at the request of M.H. de Young for the California Midwinter Fair of 1894—1895. It was given to the M.H. de Young Museum in 1931.
