



after:

SUZANNE, François Marie

Paris, c. 1750-after 1802

Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin

mid 19th century after a 1793 model

marble

statuette

Acc. No.: WRHS 46.890

Credit Line: Gift of the Estate of Richard G. Parsons

Photo credit: ph Olivier Meslay, 27 septembre 2013

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Cleveland, Ohio, Western Reserve Historical Society

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Provenance

- Gift of the Estate of Richard G. Parsons

Comment

Object's label, September 27, 2013:

This statue was obtained in London in the 1860s by the Honorable Richard C. Parsons (1826-1899), a prominent Cleveland lawyer and politician. His political career spanned the years 1852-1877; from 1877-1880 he was editor-in-chief of the Cleveland Herald, a paper he co-owned. As a congressman, he brought major improvements to Cleveland's harbor, securing the first appropriation for a breakwater to aid the commercial value of the city, and securing a lifesaving service and lighthouse.

Sculptor François Marie Suzanne exhibited a statue of Benjamin Franklin in 1793 that became the

most widely copied pose of the inventor and statesman. Copies were made in various materials and sizes, with slight changes in detailing and costume. In the original, Franklin appears with a fluted column which has been simplified in this work. Treasure status is achieved by its early date, fine material, and well-sculpted rendering of Franklin
