



BARTHOLDI, Frédéric-Auguste

Colmar, Haut-Rhin 1834 - Paris 1904

Maker: Barbedienne

La Fayette arrivant en Amérique (Gilbert du Motier, marquis de La Fayette ou Lafayette, 1757-1834)

Lafayette arriving in America (Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette or La Fayette, 1757-1834)

1873

bronze

statue

total dimensions : 180 x 72 x 72 in.

on the bronze statue: F. BARBEDIENNE - FONDEUR - PARIS / A. BARTHOLDI 1873

on the granite pedestal, in front: LAFAYETTE

on the granite pedestal, south side: TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK. / FRANCE / IN REMEMBRANCE OF SYMPATHY / IN TIMES OF TRIAL. / 1870-1871

on the granite pedestal, north side: AS SOON AS I HEARD OF / AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE / MY HEART WAS ENLISTED / 1776

Acc. No.:

Credit Line:

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New York, New York, Outdoor sculpture

Provenance

- Information given by Mme Isabelle Bräutigam, Director of Musée Bartholdi à Colmar (26 March 2020):
- 1872, February, The State (Charles Blanc, directeur des Beaux-Arts) commissions Bartholdi to

create a statue of Lafayette. Several "American committees of relief to the victims of the 1870-1871 War" wished that France would give a statue of Lafayette in gratitude of the help received.

- 1872, March 13, Bartholdi accepts the commission: "I hope to be worth representing French art in the big American metropolis".
- 1873, May, The plaster model is exhibited at the Paris Salon.
- 1875, The statue is cast by Barbedienne
- 1875, The statue arrives in New York. The first location chosen was Central Park, but Bartholdi finds it too far away and prefers Union Square.
- 1876, September 6, on Lafayette's birthday and celebrating the centennial of the American Independence, the statue is dedicated, Bartholdi being present.
- New York, Union Square

Bibliography

- <http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/unionsquarepark/monuments/884>

Related works

- Plaster model exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1874, no. 1511.
Preparatory model in tinted plaster, 50 x 20,5 x 17 cm., signed and dated on right side in back "A. Bartholdi - 1872", Colmar, Musée Bartholdi, acc. no. SB 290.
Bronze reduction, 70 x 33 x 23 cm., signed and dated on right side in back "A. Bartholdi - 1873", stamp on terrace on back at right "réduction mécanique A. Collas [... ?]", Colmar, Musée Bartholdi, acc. no. SB 293.
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