



Laborde, Alexandre Louis Joseph de, comte

1773 – 1842

Collection des Vases Grecs de M. le Comte de Lamberg, expliquée et publiée par le Comte de Laborde.

Paris, De l'imprimerie de Didot l'ainé (volume II: 'Imprimerie De Jules Didot Ainé'), 1813 [-1829]

Two volumes, FOLIO (570 × 435 mm).

I: (55)ff. letterpress, signed π^1 (half-title) a–g¹ 1–47¹ and paginated (2) i–xiv 1–94, with eighteen colour-printed vignettes in text (numbered I–XVII; two different no. XII); plus title with aquatinted vignette with added hand-colouring, and sixty leaves carrying ninety-five numbered and lettered plates, all printed in colour.

II: (42)ff. letterpress, signed π^1 (half-title) $2\pi^1$ (title) 1–40¹, with colour-printed vignette on title, fourteen colour-printed vignettes in text (unnumbered title-piece, nos. I–XIII); plus forty-six leaves carrying fifty-nine numbered and lettered plates (numbered I–L, I–IX), all printed in colour.

Occasional spotting in margins; otherwise a fine copy.

BOUND in green morocco, decorated in gilt; pink glazed endleaves.

MAGNIFICENT CATALOGUE of a selection of ancient vases in the vast collection belonging to the Austrian diplomat Anton Franz de Paula, Graf von Lamberg-Sprinzenstein (1740–1822). Formed substantially in Naples, during Count Lamberg's term as envoy (17 December 1778–15 November 1784), and augmented after his return to Vienna,¹ it grew to comprise more than 700 vases.²

¹ Cf. Elisabeth Trinkl, 'Zwei Gefäße aus Athen aus dem Besitz des Grafen Anton von Lamberg-Sprinzenstein' in *Jahrbuch des Kunsthistorischen Museums Wien* 8–9 (2006), pp.168–177, describing two vases excavated in Athens in 1812 by P.O. Brøndsted and presented to Count Lamberg in 1813.

² Rudolf Noll, 'Wiener Antikensammlungen im 18. Jahrhundert' in *Antikensammlungen im 18. Jahrhundert*, edited by Herbert Beck (Berlin 1981), pp.234, 236; Kurt Gschwantler, 'Antikensammlungen unter den Habsburgern im Wien des 18. Jhs.' in *Antikensammlungen des europäischen Adels im 18. Jahrhundert als Ausdruck einer europäischen Identität*, edited by Dietrich Boschung and Henner von Hesberg (Mainz 2000), p.165.



A view of the collection of Greek pottery vases formed by Graf Lamberg-Sprinzenstein, engraved by Benedikt Piringer after a drawing by Carl Schütz



(Volume 1, pl. II, 1–2) Two vases in the Lamberg-Sprinzenstein collection, now Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, IV 682 (SK 194, 61) and IV 254

In 1815, in a move to forestall an intended sale of the collection to Ludwig von Bayern,³ some 670 vases were purchased for the imperial museums by Franz I, Emperor of Austria,

³ Alfred Bernhard-Walcher, 'Zu den Anfängen der Münchner Vasensammlung im frühen 19. Jahrhundert' in *Münchner Jahrbuch der bildenden Kunst* 41 (1990), pp.12, 21 (note 35); Alfred Bernhard-Walcher, 'Die Wiener Vasensammlung' in *Antike Welten. Meisterwerke griechischer Malerei aus dem Kunsthistorischen Museum Wien*, edited by Meinrad Maria Grewenig (Ostfildern-Ruit 1997), pp.21–22.

in return for 125,000 Guilders; those vases are now incorporated in the Kunsthistorisches Museum.⁴ Lamberg also sold or bequeathed a renowned collection of Italian paintings.⁵

The work appeared in eighteen *livraisons*; subscribers could choose between copies printed on *papier vélin* (priced 30 francs per fascicule), or copies on the same paper, but with the plates *avant la lettre* (priced 50 francs).⁶ The plates in all copies are aquatints printed in colour, using mainly black and ochre together with mauve, brown or grey. The first plate is a general view of the collection, engraved by Benedikt Piringer (1780–1826) after a watercolour executed in 1791 by Carl Schütz.⁷ One of the titles is indistinctly signed *Dien* (Claude Marie François Dien, 1773–1842); the other plates and vignettes are unsigned.

Copies known to the writer include

- Bologna, Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, 18 BB II 1–2⁸
- London, British Library, 1899.m.3
- London, National Art Library, 96.S.12–13
- London, Royal Academy of Arts
- Los Angeles, Getty Research Institute, NK4649 .L12 1813
- Milan, Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense⁹
- New York, Columbia University, Avery Library, AK3840 L17 FF
- New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Watson Library, 579.2 L17 F
- New York, New York Public Library, MPEK+++ (Laborde)
- Oxford, Bodleian Library, Douce Prints a.38–39¹⁰
- Paris Bibliothèque Nationale de France (six copies)
- Paris, Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Pl. Rés 27 (1–2)
- Unlocated (ex-H.M. Blackmer Collection)¹¹
- Unlocated (ex-Marquesses of Bath)¹²

REFERENCES Georges Vicaire, *Manuel de l'amateur de livres du XIXe siècle, 1801–1893* (Paris 1900), IV, col. 747; Fabia Borroni, 'Il Cicognara'. *Bibliografia dell' archeologia classica e dell' arte italiana*, II/1 (Florence 1957), p.272 no. 658 ('Esistono anche esemplari membranacei'); Leonora Navari, *Greece and the Levant: the catalogue of the Henry Myron Blackmer collection of books and manuscripts* (London 1989), p.196 no. 928

⁴ For concordances, see Salomon Reinach, *Répertoire des vases peints grecs et étrusques* (Paris 1900), II, pp.164–250; Frank Brommer, *Konkordanzlisten zu alter Vasenliteratur* (Marburg 1979), pp.73–81; *Corpus vasorum antiquorum. Österreich. Wien. Kunsthistorisches Museum. Bd. 1–4*, compiled by Fritz Eichler (Vienna 1951–1984), I, p.46; II, p.36; III, p.46 (concordances).

⁵ Roswitha Juffinger, 'Counts Czernin von Chudenitz and Lamberg-Sprinzenstein: two illustrious Viennese collectors: notes for a new research' in *La circulation des oeuvres d'art = The circulation of the works of art in the revolutionary era, 1789–1848*, edited by Roberta Panzanelli and Monica Preti-Hamard (Rennes 2007), pp.117–123.

⁶ The first *livraison* is recorded in the *Bibliographie de l'Empire Français, Tome troisième*, no. 4, 22 January 1813, p.27 no. 141, and announces an edition of 300 copies; the completed work is listed in *Bibliographie de la France, Dix-huitième année*, no. 10, 7 March 1829, p.155 no. 1381 ('Livraisons I à 18, en deux cahiers in-folio, ensemble de 96 feuilles et 107 planche').

⁷ The drawing is Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum, AS Inv. XIV 73 (550 × 840 mm); see reproductions in Noll, *op. cit.*, p.235 Abb. 2; and Alfred Bernhard-Walcher, *Schätze des Österreichischen Kaiserhauses: Meisterwerke aus der Antikensammlung des Kunsthistorischen Museums in Wien*, catalogue of an exhibition held at the Landesmuseum, Mainz (Vienna 1994), p.12 no. 3 Abb. 17.

⁸ *L'immagine dell'antico fra settecento e ottocento. Libri di archeologia nella biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio*, catalogue of an exhibition (Bologna 1983), pp.148–150 no. 8.

⁹ Fabrizio Slavizzi, 'I vasi antichi nei libri fra Settecento e Ottocento' in *Miti greci: archeologia e pittura dalla Magna Grecia al collezionismo*, catalogue of an exhibition, Palazzo Reale, Milan, 3 October 2004–16 January 2005, edited by Gemma Sena Chiesa and Ermanno A. Arslan (Milan 2004), pp.93, 94 no. 69.

¹⁰ *Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts bequeathed by Francis Douce* (Oxford 1840), p.153; *Universal catalogue of books on art* (London 1870), p.1065.

¹¹ Sotheby's, 'The library of Henry Myron Blackmer II, sold by order of the executor', London, 11–13 October 1989, lot 758 (sold £7000).

¹² Christie, Manson & Woods, 'Printed books and manuscripts from Beriah Botfield's library at Longleat', London, 13 June 2002, lot 94.