

SA955983

19th century French bronze sculpture, The strong man, circa 1880

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA955983

Date of manufacture: 1880

Dimensions

Height = 47 cm (18.5")

Width = 16 cm (6.3")

Depth = 16 cm (6.3")

Description

This impressive and unusual bronze sculpture is by the Belgian sculptor Leon Mignon (1847 - 1898). It represents The strong, who were few in number, and were recognized at first sight by the "coltin": a large characteristic hat in yellow leather with very wide brims and equipped with a lead cap inside, which allowed them to support heavy loads. "stuck" on the head and which protected it, as well as the neck and the shoulders. As a distinctive sign between them, the strong wore, on the lapel of their blouse, a rectangular plate - silver or copper - with the arms of Paris, indicating their title of "Fort" and engraved with their surname. To carry the loads to Les Halles there were also other employees: the porters or carriers, dressed in a blouse and wearing a cap. They were in charge of chores on the "carreau des Halles", the space around the pavilions where the open-air sale took place. It is very well modelled with good detail to the characterful face which is finished in gilt. The figure stands on a raised circular plinth that bears the signature L Mignon and has a Brussels foundry mark for R.G Debraze at the back. This piece is in good condition and has a dark br...

Seller Details

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