



Le Prince impérial et son chien Néro

71 x 25 cm

27.9527559055118 x 27.9527559055118"

Patinated Bronze

71 x 25 x 27 cm (28 x 9⁷/₈ inches)

Signed on the right side of the plinth: JBTE CARPEAUX TUILERIES 1865

Designed around 1865

Cast: early 20th century

Signed on the right side of the plinth: "JBTE CARPEAUX TUILERIES 1865"

Signature under the dog's tail: "F crowned"

Stamped crown on the back of the plinth

Title on the front of the plinth: "S. A. LE PRINCE IMPERIAL"

Patinated bronze

Dimensions: 71 cm high, plinth: 27 x 25 cm

The only son of Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie de Montijo is depicted accompanied by the emperor's dog.

The sculptor Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux knew the eight-year-old prince very well and gave him drawing lessons. He had him alternate with another boy, whose suit served as a model for the sculptor. It gives the heir to the empire the natural appearance of a child from the upper classes of the time, but without any imperial attributes or official clothing. The portrait expresses the importance the child now holds within the family. The portrait of the prince is highly sought after and is produced in various sizes, in bronze, plaster, clay, and bisque. Even after the fall of the empire and the tragic death of the imperial prince, who was killed by the Zulus in South Africa in 1879, the Sèvres manufactory continued to sell his portrait under the title "Child with Dog."

Exhibition:

Musée d'Orsay, France, marble version

Literature:

De l'Usage de l'art en politique, Presses universitaires, Blaise Pascal, p. 122

Michel Poletti et Alain Richarme, Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux sculpteur, catalog raisonné de l'œuvre édité, Paris, 200, pp. 113 – 116 Fig.