

A jeweled walking stick signed Babst & Falize depicting two beetles among leaves and racemes, Paris, France, late 19th century.

Paris, France circa 1890.

34,75″ - 89 CM H 1,75″ - 3,8 CM L 1,75″ - 3,8 CM D

Price

€ 6,800

Reference

V1695

Serial number

SdT-0841

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A beautifully crafted jeweled walking stick with a knob, a refined example of the influence of Japanese art and culture on European Art Nouveau. finely crafted knob, a refined example of the influence of Japanese art and culture on European Art Nouveau. The handle is made of vermeil silver, striated and textured to resemble fine moiré silk. Its beauty comes from the splendid surface that enhances the contrast between the leaves and polished branches. Two graceful beetles make their way to a leafy branch at the top. The handle is made of snakewood, with a metal ferrule. Designed and made, signed and hallmarked, by Babst & Falize, France, circa 1890. The Babst & Falize firm was active from 1880 to 1892, although its history begins with Alexis Falize, a highly regarded goldsmith who opened his

workshop in 1838 and whose son, Lucien (1839–1897), joined the business in 1856, taking over management in 1876. Lucien was also an outstanding designer and goldsmith, as well as a talented enameller with an inclination towards Renaissance art and Japonism, which he first encountered at the 1872 London International Exhibition. Lucien soon gained fame for his Japanese-inspired cloisonné. However, in contrast to the serenity of his Japonism, Falize also created elaborate works, such as the ornate 1881 mantel clock now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. At the 1878 Paris World's Fair, Lucien was awarded the title of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor and a grand prize for his jewelry. That same year, he joined the firm of Germain Babst, which had been the official jewelry supplier to the French monarchy when it was still in existence. The partnership flourished briefly, dissolving in 1892. After Lucien's death in 1897, his three sons continued the business under the name Falize Frères, which survived until 1936. This cane is published in MASTERPIECES – The Eddi Van Auken Collection of Antique Walking Sticks and Cane. Curated by: Eddi Van Auken, Piero Luigi Carboni & Pierangelo Marengo.