

Louis XV Rosewood Cabinet

53 A Rosewood Cabinet 7 feet 6 long 5 feet high decorated Ormolu masks & other Ornaments fitted with Shelf covered with Crimson Cloth silvered Plate Glass back falling front with Brahmas Lock and Key and 2 shelves under enclosed by folding doors and a Circular door at each end enclosing shelves (damaged)

Above: Photo of item 53's description from the Gregory Inventory reading "A Rosewood Cabinet 7 feet 6 long 5 feet high decorated Ormolu masks + other Ornaments fitted with Shelf covered with Crimson Cloth silvered plate glass back falling front with Brahmas [sic] Lock and Key and 2 shelves under enclosed by folding doors and a Circular door at each end + enclosing shelves (damaged)"

Provenance

- Acquired by Gregory Gregory
- Inherited by the Welbys of Denton
- Sold at Gregory Heirloom Sale in 1878 to an unknown buyer

Louis XV furniture was characterized by curved forms and rich ornamentation, which was often done in ormolu, or gilt bronze. Wood carvings or inlays were another popular form of decoration. Louis XV furniture was often made of exotic materials and woods. Rosewood, the wood used in this cabinet, was imported from India or Brazil. This style was popular among the wealthy in France in the 18th century, and appears to be favored by Gregory Gregory based on other items in this exhibition.

Below: Examples of Louis XV table and cabinet and detail of ormolu decorations



Above: A Louis XV cabinet with similar characteristics to the one owned by Gregory Gregory. It is impossible to know what the cabinet truly looked like.

Below: Photo of Lot 72 from the Gregory Heirloom Sale catalogue

72 A FINE LOUIS XV. CABINET, of rosewood, with folding-doors in the centre, and circular doors at the ends enclosing shelves, the upper part with shaped fall-down front enclosing shelves with looking-glass, mounted with masks, scrolls, borders, and ornaments of chased or-molu

"Brahmas" in the original inventory description is most likely a misspelling of Bramah, the name of London's oldest locksmith. Bramah locks were invented in 1784 by Joseph Bramah and greatly advanced locking technology. They were known as the most secure



locks and were found in the homes of wealthy English lords.



Above: Portrait of Joseph Bramah by an unknown artist

Left: A decorative Bramah lock