

PASH ANTIQUES

A. PASH & SONS OF MAYFAIR

The Buffalo Hunt R. Monti for Hancock

Hancock

REF: 12100

Height: 66.01 cm (26") Width: 58.4 cm (23") Depth: 39.35 cm (15.5")



"The Buffalo Hunt" sculpture in silver and bronze, on Ebonised wooden plinth.

26 inches high

23 inches long

15.5 inches front to back.

Signed on the Bronze "R MONTI 1873". For the Sculptor Raffael Monti (1818-1881)

The silver hallmarked on the Buffalo and on the horse For C. F. Hancock, London 1872.

Hancock exhibited at the Vienna Exhibition of 1873 where they displayed several works by the illustrious artist Rafael Monti. This piece is not mentioned specifically in the brief description of

their stand but it is likely that it was there. Hancocks's stand was considered the most impressive of the English Exhibitors and they won several prizes for their display. Pieces of this calibre were rarely produced for reasons other than special commission for presentation or for the purpose of exhibition.

Within the collection of the Gilcrease Museum collection is an all-bronze version of this sculpture presented as a race prize in America in 1874. In the museum listing under "marks and inscriptions" they state that it is "Signed, R. Monti, 1873 (after Catlin)". The attribution to "Catlin" refers to the American artist George Catlin, who specialised in paintings of the Native American culture and who died in 1872. He was resident in London in the years preceding his death, where his works were exhibited also. The subject of this sculpture is particularly unusual to see produced by artists during this period; it is easy to see the influence of Catlin in this piece; it is possible that Catlin and Monti were acquainted but, at the very least, we can tell from the astonishing accuracy of the detailing that Monti was almost certainly a student of Catlin's paintings and illustrations.

"The name of Mr Hancock as an enterprising and discriminating employer of the best artistic talent obtainable has long been favourably known to us; but we think he has seldom been more fortunate than in obtaining the services of Signor Monti..." Illustrated London News, 31st May 1862

Hancocks & Co, were amongst the most renowned and illustrious Jewellers and silversmiths of the 19th century. The firm was founded by Charles Frederick Hancock in 1849. C.F. Hancock, a previous partner in the firm of Hunt & Roskell, opened his own shop at 39 Bruton Street obtaining soon after a Royal Warrant of Appointment from Queen Victoria. After being awarded the Royal Warrant in 1856, Hancocks were instructed to produce the Queen's new medal, the Victoria Cross. This is an honour upheld by the firm today. Hancock also exhibited at many of the important exhibitions of the 19th Century. At the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 they were awarded the Grand Council Medal. In 1867 Hancocks sent to Paris no less than 17 cases of stock where it remained for eight months. Here the firm triumphed winning several medals of excellence. The Vienna exhibition of 1873 saw them receive the Emperor's gold medal for science and art in addition to the allusive "Prize medal".

Raffaele Monti (1818-1881)

The revered sculptor Raffaele Monti (1818-1881) was born in Iseo, Ticino, Switzerland, of an Italian father, the sculptor Gaetano Matteo Monti (1776-1...