

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



**Item** EMPIRE CONSOLE TABLE IN THE MANNER OF JACOB DESMALTER ET CIE

**Date** Possibly St Petersburg, Russia, circa 1810.

**Dimensions** Height 37 3/4" (96cm) Width 47 3/8" (120.2) Depth 19 3/4" (50.1)

**Description** *Black fossil marble; mahogany veneers, carved and painted wood, gilt-bronze; mounts cleaned; small veneer repairs, good condition commensurate with age.*

This masculine Empire period console relates to a group of tables with front legs modelled as lion *monopodiae*, stamped by Jacob-Desmalter and supplied to the château de Fontainebleau between 1804-06 (inv. F3817, 3818), that follows the study for a ‘...console avec pieds à têtes de lions’ by Jacob Desmalter and Charles Percier however the decoration, carving and detailing suggests a Russian workshop.<sup>1</sup> The faceted carving of the chimera *monopodiae* is extremely unusual and appears to be an intentional device to increase reflective light from the ebonised surface; likewise the gilded palmette, echoing the mount above, has parallels with an ebonised console at Pavlovsk, attributed to the Bitepaj workshops to a design by the architect Andreï Voronikhin, 1808.<sup>2</sup> Further comparisons may be drawn with an ebonised wall console with similarly sparse picked-out gilding illustrated in a photograph dated 1941 in the Staatlichen Museum, St Petersburg<sup>3</sup> and a design for a console table of related inspiration by Ivan Galberg, dated 1826.<sup>4</sup>

1. C. Percier & P.F.L. Fontaine, *Receuil de décorations intérieurs...*, 1801.

2. A. Chenevière, *Russian Furniture*, 1988, no. 197, p. 190.

3. *St Petersburg Um 1800*, no. 397, p. 437.

4. *Russian Historical Archive*, St Petersburg, p. 649.

**Price** £17,500

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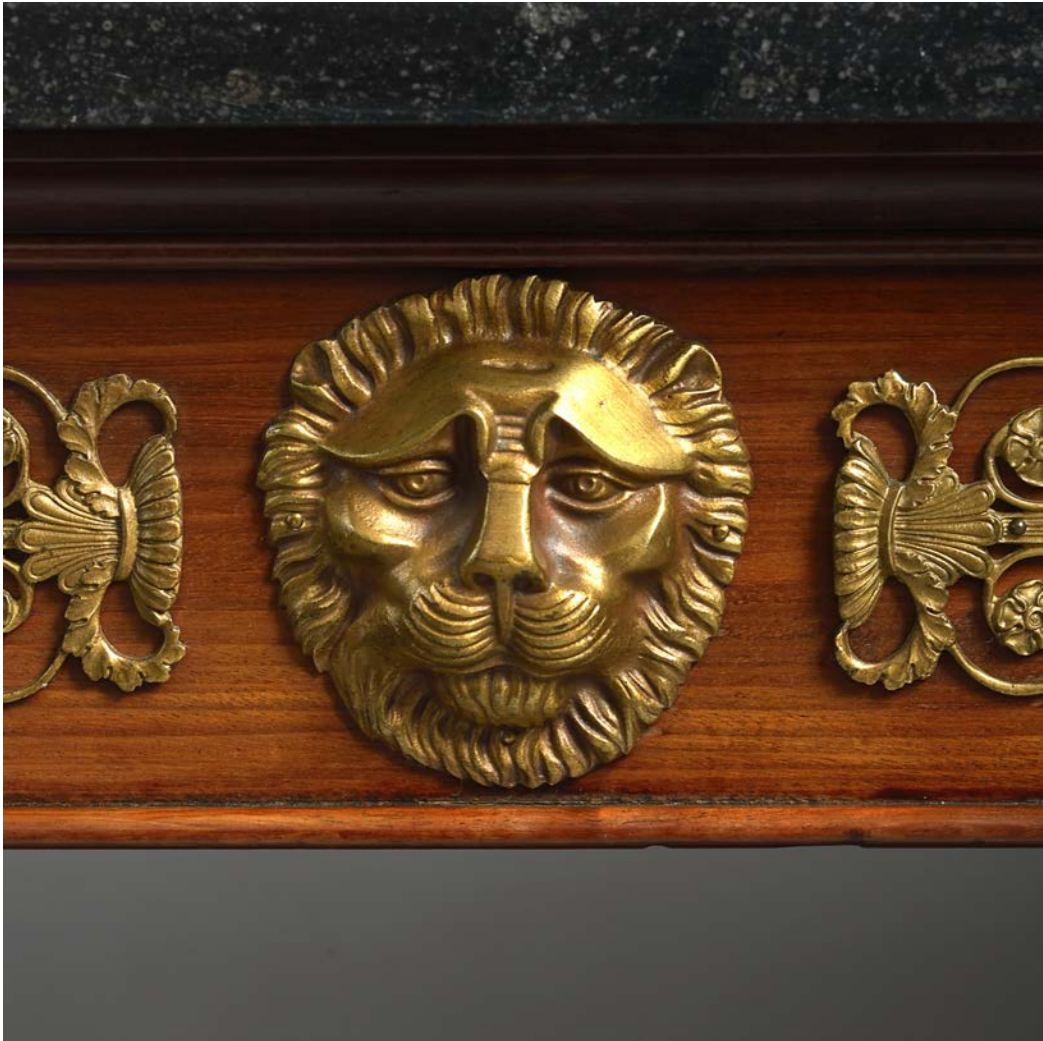


Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3