

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



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| <b>Item</b>       | HARDSTONE CLOCK SURMOUNTED BY A BRONZE OF EUROPA & THE BULL                               |
| <b>Date</b>       | The bronze cast by a Viennese foundry, <i>circa</i> 1900, after the model by Hans Müller. |
| <b>Provenance</b> | Private collection, Hampstead, London.  |
| <b>Dimensions</b> | Height 17" (43cm)    Width 10" (25.5cm)    Depth 4 3/4" (12)                              |

**Description**    *The sculpture cast in patinated bronze inscribed H. Müller, supported on a gilt-metal-mounted specimen marble clock case, on gilt-bronze feet, containing an 8 day striking movement with an enamelled dial; in good condition commensurate with age and use; the movement will be cleaned and guaranteed for a year.*

The clock case, possibly of *Marmo Calcidense o Flor di Pesco* with unusually defined sections resembling orbicular diorite, is mounted with cast laurel borders epitomising the *fin de siècle* revival for Louis XVI neoclassical designs, seen in the small clocks produced by Cartier, Fabergé, Tiffany and others, often using imported hardstones cut in Idar-Oberstein in the Hunsrück Mountains, Germany.

The Greek mythological subject of Europa and the Bull appears as sculpture and on vase decoration and is first referred to in the *Illiad*. This bronze, entitled *Europa auf dem Stier*, is inscribed Hans Müller (1873-1937), who was born in Vienna, Austria, and studied under the sculptor Edmund Hellmer at the Vienna Academy of Art. Although known for his portrait busts of historical figures and Viennese society, Müller also produced bronzes of animals, often presented on unusually high quality specimen marble plinths. The most extensive collection of Müller's work is on permanent display at the Simu Museum, Bucharest but although identical bronze casts are known, no comparable clock appears to exist which suggests that this was a special commission.

**Price**    £8,500

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Fig. 1

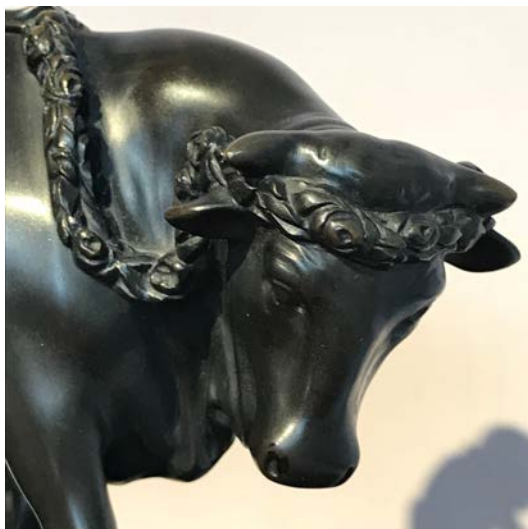


Fig.2

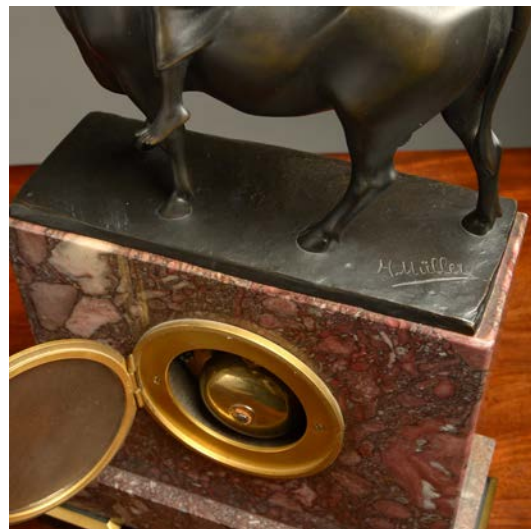


Fig.3