OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



A box from Alphonse Giroux in Paris

Era: 19th century

Materials: wood, mother in pearl, brass

Dim: W 34 cm / D 19,5 cm / H 16,5 cm

Dim: W 13.38 in / D 7.67 in / H 6.49 in

Signed: Alph. Giroux & Cie à Paris

Elegant box in blackened wood decorated with stylized shamrocks in mother-of-pearl and brass marquetry, arranged in a regular pattern on all sides. The whole is adorned with a finely chased bronze Neo-Gothic-style frame decorated with symmetrical foliage, flowers and scrolls, notably framing the lock and hinges. The interior, upholstered in pleated cream satin, suggests a function as a jewelry or glove box, typical of the luxury objects of Second Empire Parisian high society. Signed on the inner engraved brass border: “Alph. Giroux & Cie à Paris”, a firm renowned for its refined furniture and objets d'art, and a regular supplier to royalty and the Parisian elit.

Founded by François-Simon-Alphonse Giroux in 1799, the **House of Alphonse Giroux** (1799-1881) was one of the most successful luxury Parisian stores of the 19th century. Like the great merchant merciers of the Ancien Régime, it sold small items of cabinetry, tableware and bimbeloterie. Suppliers to the Crown, the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie, its success was inseparable from the development of a new industrial art. Sons Alphonse-Gustave and André Giroux took over the company in 1838, which became “Alphonse Giroux et Cie” until it was absorbed by Duvinage in 1867. Alphonse Giroux et Cie flourished during the Restoration and the Second Empire, supplying members of the imperial court.