

# GABRIEL VIARDOT

1830 - 1906

Gabriel Viardot was a cabinetmaker, active close to 1850 who began his career by a kind of serial production of small little living-room furniture. Then, he became one of the greatest representative of the japonism in the furniture creation.

## CAREER

He began his woodmaker career in 1849 and focus his production on chinese and japanese style furniture close to 1860. He used european frames on which he adapted Chinese or Japanese lacquers, recut and highlighted them with Tonkin mother-of-pearl inlays and chiseled and gilt ornamental bronzes made by himself with specific motifs. He had prestigious clients like George Clémenceau or Clémence d'Ennery.

## AWARDS

Four medals to the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1867.

Silver medal at the 1878 Paris Universal Exhibition.

Several gold medals in the Universal Exhibitions of Anvers in 1884, Paris in 1889 and 1900 and French Knight of the Legion of Honour.

The famous parisian house « l'Escalier de Cristal », commercialized some of his creations.

## EMBLEMATIC WORK



Fauteuil, vers 1880



Armoire, 1886

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Miroir d'applique, vers 1880

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE HIM ?

Essential cabinetmaker of the japonism, audacious shapes of Viardot and some specific points give a special style to his production.

- ✚ Active circa 1860 in the creation of japonism furniture
- ✚ Asian inspiration shapes but on european frames
- ✚ Chinese and Japanese lacquers, mother-of-pearl inlays
- ✚ Ornament bronzes : dragoons, crane birds and turtle, chinese meanders
- ✚ Famous clients and commercialization by the Escalier de Cristal

### Sources :

D. Ledoux-Lebard Le mobilier français du XIXème siècle, Dictionnaires des ébénistes et des menuisiers, Tome II, Les éditions de l'Amateur, 1984,1989, Paris

**JL F**

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