

GALERIE LAMY
CHABOLLE



A Silvered Bronze Life-cast Of A Snake

Bronze with copper alloy, traces of silver

Italy

19th century

11 × 9 cm (4.3 × 3.5 in.)



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The appearance of the alloy and the surface treatment of this grass snake are very close to those of a brass serpent held in the Kunstkammer, no. 5907, at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, described as a life cast of Paduan origin from the late sixteenth century, in a tin-and-lead alloy with traces of silvering.

Although the present serpent, also silvered, though of a thick cast in a copper alloy, clearly refers to such Paduan casts, caution requires that it be regarded as a late Italian homage, probably from the second third of the nineteenth century.

Bronze serpents of this type, as was noted of a Paduan serpent of similar kind in the catalogue of the exhibition *Natur und Antike in der Renaissance*, ‘depart far from the naturalistic spirit of the Paduan humanist cabinets. They may therefore have served as paperweights.’

LITERATURE

See *Natur und Antike in der Renaissance*, Frankfurt, 1986.

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