

GALERIE LAMY
CHABOLLE



A North-Italian pier glass

Tin-mercury mirror, *intagliato* poplar wood, in so-called *giallo polenta* lacquer

Piedmont

ca. 1750–1767

165 x 90 cm (65 x 35.4 in.)



At least two similar mirrors are located respectively in the apartments of the Duke of Chiabrese and in the *antibiblioteca* of the famous Stupinigi hunting lodge built for Victor Amadeus II of Savoy in Stupinigi.

These mirrors, characteristic of the Northern Italian school of woodcarving or *intagliato*, consist of a mercury looking-glass framed by carved wood friezes and double row of *parcloes* mirror plates adorned with rosettes. Furthermore, they are framed by a cresting *ajouré* in carved wood, flower garlands whose carving style is characteristic of Piedmontese workshops, and rocaille feet, which serve as a reminder that these mirrors were designed to be placed atop console tables.

Their decoration thus incorporates the foliage scroll and cartouche ornaments designed by the Piedmontese architect Benedetto Alfieri for the House of Savoy and their court. Specifically, they echo the stuccos, frames, and paneling created after Alfieri's designs by Turinese craftsmen between 1753 and 1767 inside the Palazzo Chiabrese in Turin.

LITERATURE

See Graham Child, *World Mirrors. 1650-1900*, London, 1990 and Enrico Colle, *Museo di arti applicate. Mobili e intagli lignei nel Castello Sforzesco*, Milan, 1996.

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