

Star Sales

A large sunburst mirror, a green cabinet-on-stand once belonging to Min Hogg, and a pretty box have all caught **Caroline Wheeler's** eye at auction



1. Elegance in Wood

Estimate £6,000–£8,000 Sold £33,800

In the 18th century the French court led the world in furniture fashion, with many classic designs coming to the fore during the long and opulent reign of Louis XV. One of those designs was the bombé (or convex) shape of furniture applied to cabinets and chests of drawers, which derived from the Baroque style then in favour. Top Parisian cabinetmakers used only the finest woods to create these curvy pieces for all the best houses. As

often happens in the history of antique furniture, the style was revived in the late 19th century when this sublime amaranth and kingwood *meuble d'appui* (low cabinet) with marble top was created. Possibly one of a pair, it was consigned from a Mayfair home and its pedigree put it in the spotlight at a recent Sworders Fine Interiors sale. Specialist Alex Hallett explains why: 'The *meuble d'appui* by Joseph-Emmanuel Zwiener is a top example of French revivalist

cabinetmaking from one of the foremost names of the late 19th century. When seen in person, it is hard not to be struck by the sheer quality of workmanship, with its deeply undulating shape and superbly cast ormolu mounts. Although the market for French furniture is not quite what it was a decade or so ago, bidders from across the world were clearly enamoured with the cabinet, which is why it achieved such a fantastic price.'

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