

Winter 2019

## A French Affair: Drawings and Paintings from The Horvitz Collection Wall Labels

Fairfield University Art Museum

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### Recommended Citation

Fairfield University Art Museum, "A French Affair: Drawings and Paintings from The Horvitz Collection Wall Labels" (2019). *A French Affair: Drawings and Paintings from The Horvitz Collection - Ephemera*. 1. <https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/horvitz-ephemera/1>

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## Didot Luxury Editions

Pierre Didot the Elder (1761-1853) was from a family of publishers based in Paris. He commissioned several large and lavishly illustrated multi-volume publications throughout his career. The most well-known example was a three-volume edition of the works of the famous 17th-century playwright Jean Racine, published between 1801 and 1805. Didot enlisted the celebrated Neoclassical painter Jacques-Louis David (1748-1825) to serve as editor for the designs; the overcommitted David divided the task between eight students and colleagues. On display are six drawings and prints from the edition of Racine's work and an illustration for Didot's edition of the ancient author Virgil.

Many of the drawings commissioned for Didot's projects remained in his collection, and were often presented on his decorative green and gold mounts.