



Théobald Chartran
Bachi-Bouzouk, 1877

THÉOBALD CHARTRAN
(Besançon 1849-1907 Neuilly-sur-Seine)

BACHI-BOUZOUK, 1877

Signed and dated lower left: "T.CHARTRAN.1877."

Oil on panel
44 x 29 cm; 17 1/3 x 11 1/2 in.

Provenance

Private Collection, France.



A painter of history, genre scenes and portraits, Théobald Chartran was born in Besançon, France, in 1849. As a young child, he was already very skilled for drawing, and enjoyed doing caricatures of his teachers, in the Lycée Victor Hugo. Aged 18, he entered the Beaux-Arts in Paris and studied with the artist Alexandre Cabanel. He started exhibiting academic paintings at the French Artists Salon in 1872.

In 1877, he received the Grand Prix de Rome for his work, *Prise de Rome par les Gaulois*, and a second medal at the Salon in 1881. He was awarded a Silver Medal at the Universal exhibition in 1889. From 1881, he also exhibited his work at the Royal Academy and at the Crafton Galleries in London. He was soon recognized as a talented portraitist and became very fashionable among the circles of the high society . Working fast and with application, he received commissions from famous people, like the Princess of Wales, (future Queen Alexandra), from political or religious figures, (President Carnot, President Roosevelt, the Pope Leon XIII), as well as from famous actresses, Sarah Bernhardt and Rejane.

Chartran was also a talented draughtman and a decorator. He has painted murals in the Grand Stairs at the Sorbonne university, in the Arts Room in the Paris Townhouse and some fresques for the choir of the church in Champigny, for which he received a medal in 1877.

In 1904, he was elected a member at the Academy in Besançon. When he died in 1907, the city erected a bronze statue in remembrance of him. Chartran's artworks are held in some of the most prestigious collections in the world, including: Musée d'Orsay, Paris; National Portrait Gallery, London; and the Fine Arts Museum San Francisco, to list some.

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