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**LOT 201
PRINCE PAUL TROUBETZKOY**

RUSSIAN

1866-1938

BUST OF PAULE-DINAH LEVI DE BENZION

signed and dated: Paul Troubetzkoy 1922 and stamped: C. VALSUANI / CIRE / PERDUE

bronze, mid-brown and green patina

44cm., 17¼in.

ESTIMATE 15,000-25,000 GBP

Lot Sold: 79,300 GBP

PROVENANCE

commissioned by Moise or Paule-Dinah Levi de Benzion, Draveil, Seine-et-Oise

and thence by family descent to the present owner

CATALOGUE NOTE

This rare and beautiful portrait bust by Troubetzkoy would have been created shortly after the sculptor's return to Europe after his long sojourn in the United States through the period of the Great War. Troubetzkoy modelled very few portrait busts and the present example is distinguished by its provenance, coming directly from Paule Levi de Benzion's family. Paule was the wife of Moise Levi de Benzion, a fabled Jewish art collector who lived in Paris and Cairo. His collection, which included famous works by Van Gogh and Corot, was plundered by Hermann Goering in 1941. Most of the works were restituted to his heirs by 1948.

The sitter's wistful expression, and the fresh modelling, compare particularly closely with Troubetzkoy's plaster bust of the Canadian actress Mary Pickford in the Museo del Paesaggio, Verbania Pallanza (inv. no. T n. 323). The present bronze is particularly appealing because of the sitter's fashionable 1920's hairstyle, which successfully evokes the glamour and optimism of the age.

RELATED LITERATURE

G. Piantoni and P. Venturoli, Paolo Troubetzkoy 1866-1938, exh. cat. Museo del Paesaggio, Verbania Pallanza, Turin, 1990, pp. 212-213, no. 173