

Pierre-Jean DAVID D'ANGERS (1788-1856)

VICTOR HUGO at 35 years old

Colossal Hermes Bust, with tie
Studio plaster

H : 74 cm, L : 38 cm, D : 34 cm

Artist example signed, dated with engraved dedication in the
mould «A Victor Hugo, P.J. David 1837».

Circa 1838

Provenance

*Gift circa 1837 from the artist to Louis Pavie at the origin of the
meeting David-Victor-Hugo (May 1827).*

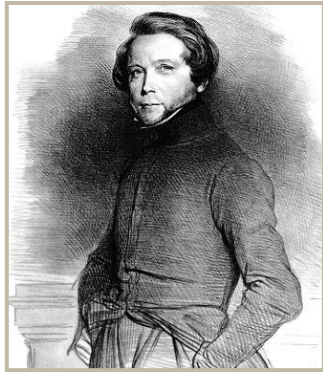
*«Estate of Voisin-Chasles, descendant of Louis Pavie (1782-1859),
writer, printer, bookseller, important friend and support of the
artist (Angers, Sale June 13th 1994, bought by the following)*

Private Angers collection

Galerie Jacques Leegenhoek, Paris

UDB collection

*The only (?) example identified by us with the date
and the signature on the front of the base.*



Louis Pavie, poet, writer and bookseller was one of the best friends of David d'Angers, «the friend of his heart» said this latter, for it was him who had assisted the father sculptor's in his last moments. David was also close friends with his two sons, Victor Pavie and Theodore Pavie.

Louis Pavie was not only a man of letters, he had important responsibilities in Angers in the 1820s-30 as he was deputy mayor of the city. And, it is especially important for the posterity of David, Pavie was one of the initiators of the Galerie David d'Angers in 1839. The Gallery preserve one example of all the models by the artist, it still exists in Angers today with a particular lively atmosphere.

The Louis Pavie provenance is particularly interesting here, because it is him again who is at the origin of David's first meeting with Victor Hugo in May 1827.

The sculptor was particularly generous with his models, since when he made the portrait of Louis Pavie, he offered him the marble now currently at the Angers Gallery and which comes from the same sale as our plaster.

This plaster, the only one we have identified with the signature, the year and the dedication on the front of the piece, can be undoubtedly considered as a gift to its patron. Because of its inscriptions, it is probably one of the first examples around 1838 when the project of the Galerie des modèles was initiated.



David d'Angers, *Victor Hugo*, colossal hermes bust with tie, terracotta, Angers, Galerie David d'Angers.

