

# Jean Béraud



1849-1935 | FRENCH

*Les Grands Boulevards (Café Américain)*

*M.S. Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS



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Oil on panel | Circa 1897  
Signed "Jean Béraud" (lower left)

Canvas: 13 1/2" high x 20" wide | 34.29 cm x 50.80 cm  
Frame: 21" high x 27 1/2" wide x 2 1/2" deep  
53.34 cm x 69.85 cm x 6.35 cm

“

I have the greatest respect for  
Monsieur Jean Béraud—for  
his fame, his talent, his  
influence, his charm, his heart,  
and his intelligence.

- Marcel Proust

”





**J**ean Béraud’s keen eye and masterful brushwork brought the spirit of Belle Époque Paris to life. This painting, entitled *Les Grands Boulevards (Café Américain)*, is a breathtaking oil that captures the elegance and energy of Paris at its most enchanting. Photos cannot fully convey the vibrancy and exceptional detail of this great work of art.

Béraud’s unparalleled command of light, detail and atmosphere shines in this rare masterpiece. He beautifully renders a rain-soaked autumn day, with meticulous attention to every detail of the famous Parisian boulevard. In the foreground, a young woman lifts her skirt to avoid the wet pavement, revealing a daring glimpse of her ankle to an admirer. The painting centers the Café Américain, a quintessential Belle Époque gathering spot that welcomed literary figures and painters by day, transforming into a lively haunt by night. Béraud also includes the iconic Colonne Morris, with its advertisements—from operas to spectacles—depicted in such detail that it feels as though one could step into the bustling scene and select your own evening entertainment. *Please find a complete list of the shows on the following page.*

Adding to its Parisian magic, this painting once belonged to the esteemed art collection of Margaret Thompson Biddle (1896–1956), daughter of copper magnate William Boyce Thompson. Married to diplomat Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., she narrowly escaped the 1939 bombing of Warsaw and became an ardent supporter of WWII relief efforts. After the war, Biddle divided her time between New York, Paris and her French Riviera villa, hosting notable figures such as Dwight Eisenhower and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. A prominent figure in Parisian society, she was an avid collector of works by Corot, Renoir, Monet, Gauguin and naturally, Béraud—seeking art that epitomized the beauty and spirit of France.

Born in Saint Petersburg to French parents, Jean Béraud moved to Paris and became a leading chronicler of its vibrant late 19th and early 20th-century life. Initially studying law, he shifted to art at the École des Beaux-Arts, drawn by his passion for painting. Influenced by Impressionism, Béraud captured the bustling streets, cafés and theaters of Paris, offering a vivid snapshot of a rapidly changing society. Today, his work is represented in the Musée du Louvre, Paris; the Musée d’Orsay, Paris; the National Gallery, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and more.







## Guide to the Advertisements on the Colonne Morris

Rothomago – A Féerie Spectacle in the Théâtre du Châtelet. Féeries were elaborate productions featuring advanced stagecraft, fantastical plots and stunning visual effects.

Manon – Opera by Jules Massenet in the Opéra-Comique. Manon became one of the most beloved operas of the Belle Époque, celebrated for its lush score and dramatic storytelling.

Bob Walter – Serpentine Dancer and Performer in the Théâtre La Bodinière. Bob Walter captivated audiences with her serpentine dance, transforming her silhouette into various forms through flowing costumes and colored light projections.

Paulus (Jean-Paul Habans) – Café-Concert Performer. In 1897, Paulus starred in films by George Méliès, where he sang behind a projected image, creating an early illusion of synchronized sound and cinema. His lively performances made him a staple of Parisian entertainment.



## PROVENANCE

Margaret Thompson Biddle (1896-1956)

Thence by descent

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

## LITERATURE

To be included in the Supplement to the critical catalogue of the work of Jean Béraud being prepared by Patrick Offenstadt and the Wildenstein Institute



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Nous vous informons qu'après étude et en l'état actuel de nos connaissances, nous avons l'intention, à ce jour, d'inclure l'œuvre reproduite ci-dessous dans le supplément au catalogue critique de l'œuvre peint de Jean BÉRAUD.

**LES GRANDS BOULEVARDS**  
 Huile sur panneau  
 36,2 x 53,3 cm  
 Signé en bas à gauche: *Jean Béraud.*

Fait à Paris, le 6 avril 2016

  
 Patrick Offenstadt



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**Jean Béraud**  
**BOIS DE BOULOGNE**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 45.7 x Width 58.4 cm.  
 Height 17.992 x Width 22.992 in.

**18 May 2016** *over 8 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00039]

est. 600,000 - 800,000 USD **1,810,000 USD** Ⓢ  
 ↑ 126% est



**Jean Béraud**  
**Avenue Parisienne**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 39.7 x Width 56.5 cm.  
 Height 15.63 x Width 22.244 in.

**04 November 2010** *about 14 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00038]

est. 700,000 - 1,000,000 USD **1,482,500 USD** Ⓢ  
 ↑ 48% est



**Jean Béraud**  
**Leaving Montmartre Cemetery**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 66 x Width 53.3 cm.  
 Height 25.984 x Width 20.984 in.  
 1876

**09 May 2013** *over 11 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00032]

est. 600,000 - 800,000 USD **953,000 USD** Ⓢ  
 ↑ 19% est



**Jean Béraud**  
**Place de l'Europe**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 48.3 x Width 73.6 cm.  
 Height 19.016 x Width 28.976 in.

**04 November 2010** *about 14 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00045]

est. 700,000 - 1,000,000 USD **842,500 USD** Ⓢ



**Jean Béraud**  
**SUR LES GRANDS BOULEVARDS**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 38.7 x Width 56.2 cm.  
 Height 15.236 x Width 22.126 in.

**13 November 2018** *about 6 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00147]

est. 500,000 - 700,000 USD **735,000 USD** Ⓢ  
 ↑ 5% est







**Jean Béraud**  
*APRÈS L'OFFICE À L'ÉGLISE DE  
 LA SAINTE TRINITÉ, NOËL 1890*  
 oil on panel  
 Height 50.5 x Width 67.3 cm.  
 Height 19.882 x Width 26.496 in.

**22 November 2016** *about 8 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 European Art – [Lot 00018]

est. 600,000 - 800,000 USD **672,500 USD** ©



**Jean Béraud**  
*SCÈNE SUR LES CHAMPS-  
 ÉLYSÉES*  
 oil on panel  
 Height 36.8 x Width 53.3 cm.  
 Height 14.488 x Width 20.984 in.

**18 May 2016** *over 8 years ago*  
 Sotheby's New York  
 19th Century European Art – [Lot 00036]

est. 500,000 - 700,000 USD **646,000 USD** ©



**Jean Béraud**  
*L'accident: Porte Saint-Denis*  
 oil on panel  
 Height 32.4 x Width 46 cm.  
 Height 12.756 x Width 18.11 in.

**15 October 2020** *over 4 years ago*  
 Christie's New York  
 European Art Part I – [Lot 00019]

est. 400,000 - 600,000 USD **562,500 USD** ©



**Jean Béraud**  
*Devant La Maison Paquin*  
 oil on panel  
 Height 36.8 x Width 54.99 cm.  
 Height 14.49 x Width 21.65 in.

**01 November 2016** *about 8 years ago*  
 Doyle New York  
 Impressionist & Modern Art – [Lot 00006]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 USD **562,000 USD** ©  
 ↑ 61% est



**Jean Béraud**  
*Boulevard Poissonnière en  
 automne*  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 25.7 x Width 39 cm.  
 Height 10.118 x Width 15.354 in.

**23 April 2012** *over 12 years ago*  
 Christie's New York  
 19th Century European Paintings – [Lot 00051]

est. 300,000 - 500,000 USD **506,500 USD** ©  
 ↑ 1% est



## Jean Béraud | *Parisian Street Scene*

Circa 1885

**Medium:** Oil on panel

**Dimensions:** 15<sup>1/4</sup> x 10<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 38.7 x 26.8 cm



**THE  
MET**

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York, NY, United States



Jean Béraud | *Sunday at the Church of Saint-Philippe-du-Roule, Paris*

1877

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 23<sup>3/8</sup> x 31<sup>7/8</sup> inches | 59.4 x 81 cm



The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York, NY, United States





Jean Béraud | *Windy Day, Place de la Concorde*

Circa 1890

**Medium:** Oil on panel

**Dimensions:** 22<sup>1/16</sup> x 14<sup>13/16</sup> inches | 56 x 37.6 cm



**THE  
CLARK**

The Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown, MA, United States



Jean Béraud | *After the Misdeed*

Circa 1885-90

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 15 x 18<sup>1/8</sup> inches | 38.1 x 46 cm



THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

The National Gallery of Art  
*London, England*



## Jean Béraud | *L'Attente*

Between 1848 and 1935

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 21<sup>3/4</sup> x 15<sup>3/8</sup> inches | 55.3 x 39 cm



M  
O

Musée d'Orsay  
Paris, France



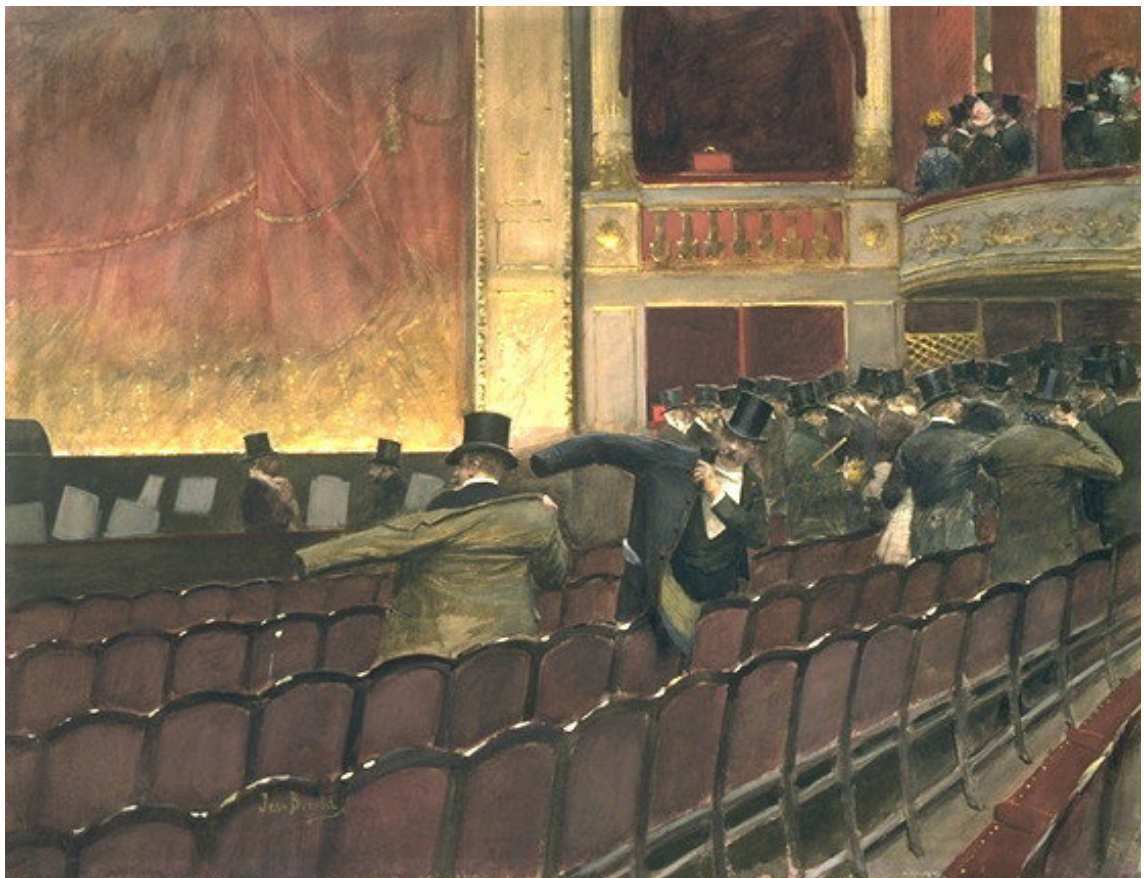


Jean Béraud | *La sortie du théâtre*

n.d.

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 22<sup>1/4</sup> x 28<sup>3/4</sup> inches | 56.5 x 72 cm



LOUVRE

The Louvre  
Paris, France



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