



French Crown Jewels



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Pair of Two Natural-Pearl Earrings
Total weight: 8.1 grams each
(including setting and diamonds)
Shape: Drop-shaped
Size: 10.95 x 11.05 x 14.80mm and
10.85 x 10.90 x 14.90 mm
Circa 1790





Certain treasures stand above all others. The French Crown Jewels belong to this category. Presented here is an extraordinary pair of natural pearl and diamond earrings that belonged to Queen Marie-Amélie, the last Queen of France. These earrings are among the handful of royal jewels to survive one of the most important jewelry collections ever assembled.





For almost fourteen centuries, the French Crown Jewels were reserved exclusively for the royal family. Handcrafted by the finest goldsmiths of their age, they incorporated the world's most precious gems. Preserved generation after generation, the collection grew as the French kingdom rose into the most important country in the West. No other royal collection rivaled its quality or magnitude.

That expansion ended abruptly in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War. Following Napoleon III's abdication and the establishment of the Third Republic, the new government, fearful of a future royal ever seizing power, made the unprecedented decision in 1887 to sell nearly the entire collection. The famed quote they used to justify this sale was "Without a Crown, there cannot be a King." Only a tiny number of the most precious jewels were spared as these had been kept by the royal family. This pair was among those treasures that remained with the family, never before on the market.

Natural pearls of this caliber were the most prized gemstones of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, valued well above diamonds for their rarity and perfection. This is evidenced

by the record-setting result achieved by a baroque pearl loosely attributed to Marie Antoinette, which realized over \$41 million. Please note that a baroque pearl is far more common than a perfectly shaped natural pearl, and matched pairs of natural pearls are obviously far rarer. These earrings were originally crafted in the classic royal drop form, and later enhanced with diamonds by Mellerio dits Meller, the French Crown jeweler.

The earrings descended through the Bourbon-Orléans line from Queen Amélie, one of the last figures of Europe's great dynastic age. Born into the Bourbon and Habsburg houses, she was the daughter of Marie-Caroline (for whom the earrings were made) of Austria, Marie Antoinette's beloved sister, and inherited the traditions of a court defined by ceremony and splendor. Fewer than ten jewels attributed to Queen Amélie are known today, including a small group of sapphires and pearls formerly held in the Louvre until the October 19, 2025 heist.



This portrait on the right depicts Queen Marie-Amélie of France, the last Queen of the French, wearing these pearl earrings.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the original pearl drops were entrusted to Mellerio, the jeweler to the French Crown, who enhanced them with diamond settings in keeping with court taste of the period.

The earrings subsequently descended through the Bourbon-Orléans line, long regarded as the most legitimate dynastic claim to the French throne.

They are illustrated here worn by Isabelle d'Orléans-Braganza, who married Henri d'Orléans in 1931, the great-great-grandson of Queen Marie-Amélie.

When recently shown these historic photographs, Isabelle's grandson, Jean d'Orléans who is first in line for the French throne, reflected on his family's enduring connection to the earrings. He recalled that his grandmother wore them on the most significant occasions and emphasized their powerful resonance as tangible heirlooms of the French Crown.

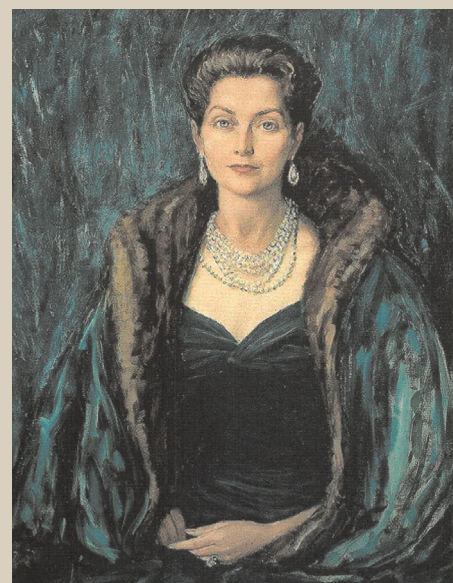
The earrings are offered directly from the estate of Isabelle d'Orléans-Braganza, preserving an unbroken lineage from the last Queen of France to the present head of the House of Orléans.



These are two depictions of Isabelle wearing the earrings at different stages in her life.



Queen Marie-Amélie wearing the pearl earrings, a gift from her mother, Marie-Caroline, sister to Marie Antoinette.





Domaine Royal, le 2 novembre 2023

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie de votre envoi auquel j'ai été très sensible.

Le souvenir de ma grand mère est toujours resté très vivant chez moi et dans ma famille.

Revoir son portrait dans les photographies que vous m'avez adressées, en particulier celles où on la voit avec ses boucles d'oreilles préférées, notamment à Palerme lors de son mariage ou encore à la une de certains journaux, m'a beaucoup ému. Elles ont toujours fait partie de sa toilette pour les grands moments familiaux et publics.

Merci, pour ce bref retour dans un passé émouvant, historique et familial.

Je vous prie de me croire, *cher Monsieur,*

avec affection.

*Jean
Comte de Paris*

Royal Estate, 2 November 2023

Dear Madame,

I thank you for your message, which touched me deeply.

The memory of my grandmother has always remained very vivid for me and for my family.

Seeing her portrait again in the photographs you sent me—particularly those in which she appears wearing her preferred earrings, notably in Palermo at the time of her wedding or even on the front page of certain newspapers—moved me greatly. They were always part of her attire for important family and public occasions.

Thank you for this brief return to a past that is emotional, historic and deeply familial.

Yours sincerely,

With my warmest regards,

Jean, Count of Paris





Appendix letter No. 119215

Exceptional Pair of Natural Pearls

The pair of natural pearls described in Test Report No. 119215 from the Swiss Gemmological Institute SSEF possesses outstanding characteristics and merits special mention and appreciation.

The two described natural pearls are set in a pair of ear-pendants together with a fine selection of colourless diamonds. The pearls exhibit a remarkable size and a beautifully matching drop-shape. They are further characterised by an attractive slightly cream colour and a very fine pearl lustre.

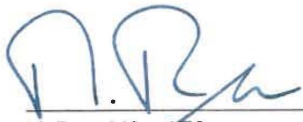
The combination of well-balanced trace elements found in these pearls is characteristic of saltwater pearls.

Based on the provided documentation, this pair of natural pearls is of historic provenance and was originally part of the royal jewels of Marie-Amélie de Bourbon, last Queen of France (1782-1866). Documented by Bernard Morel in the book *"Les Joyeaux de la Couronne de France"* (1988), this exceptional pair of natural pearls was later offered by Prince Henri of Orléans, Count of Paris (1908-1999) to Princess Isabelle of Orléans-Bragance (1911-2003) upon their marriage in 1931. As such, this pair of pearl ear-pendants represents one of the rare jewellery items which remained in the family treasure of the descendants of the last King and Queen of France until today.


A pair of natural pearls of this size and quality is very rare. In combination with its historic provenance it can be considered an exceptional treasure of nature and history.

SWISS GEMMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE – SSEF

Basel, 28 October 2021 tg


M. Rytz, MSc, ATC

Detailed description of reports: www.ssef.ch/reports
Mandatory report verification: www.myssef.ch


Dr. W. Zhou, FGA

**Test Report No. 119215**

on the authenticity of the following pearls,
set in a pair of ear-pendants (A + B) with diamonds

Total weight: A: 8.1 grams
B: 8.1 grams
(including setting and diamonds)

Shape: drop-shaped, half-drilled

Measurements: A: approximately 10.95 - 11.05 x 14.80 mm
B: approximately 10.85 - 10.90 x 14.90 mm

Colour: slightly cream


Identification: **two NATURAL PEARLS**

Comments: The analysed properties confirm the authenticity
of these saltwater natural pearls.

Important Note: The conclusions on this Test Report reflect our findings at the time it is issued. A gemstone or pearl can be modified and/or enhanced at any time. Therefore, the SSEF can at any time reassess whether the gemstone or pearl is in accordance with this Test Report. A setting may limit complete analysis of a gemstone or a pearl, thus all conclusions are given as far as the setting permits. The authenticity and colour authenticity of additional diamonds, gemstones, and pearls in the setting have not been tested. Any declared weight on an SSEF report has been stated by the client. SSEF does not take any responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy of the declared weight. Once verified on www.myssef.ch, only the Test Report with the valid original signatures, embossed stamps and Proof Tag™ label affixed onto the surface of the laminated Test Report is a valid document. PDF scans and copies of a Test Report are not legally binding. See terms and conditions on reverse side and www.ssef.ch/terms-conditions. © This report is copyright of SSEF.

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 M. Rytz, MSc, ATC

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Dr. W. Zhou, FGA



LABORATOIRE FRANÇAIS DE GEMMOLOGIE REPORT



RAPPORT D'ANALYSE PERLE PEARL REPORT

n°330299 Paris, le 10/01/2018

Objet | Item Boucles d'oreilles | Earrings

Nombre de perles | Number of pearls 2

Identification **PERLES FINES**
Identification **NATURAL PEARLS**

Environnement **Eau de mer**
Environment **Saltwater**

Masse | Mass **16.26 g**

Traitement **Pas d'indication de traitement**
Treatment **No indication of treatment**

Couleur | Colour **Blanc crème | White cream**

Dimensions | Measurements Voir commentaires | See comments

Forme | Shape **Goutte | Drop**

Perçage | Drilling **Demi-percé | Half-drilled**

Commentaires | Comments

- Perles examinées serties
Pearls examined on setting

a : 10.9 - 11.0 x 14.3 mm env. | approx.
b : 10.8 - 10.8 x 17.6 mm env. | approx.



a

b

²
Olivier Segura, MSc, GG, DUG
Directeur | Director

Aurélien Delaunay, MSc, DUG
Responsable | Chief gemmologist



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BERNARD MOREL

LES JOYAUX

DE LA COURONNE DE FRANCE



FONDS MERCATOR

ALBIN MICHEL

Morel, Bernard, *Les Joyaux de la Couronne de France* (Paris: Fonds Mercator, 1988), 327.





Paire de boucles d'oreilles de diamants, dont deux brillants de 2,5 à 3 carats, ayant appartenu à la princesse de Joinville. Photo Olivier Thomas, avec l'aimable autorisation de M^{me} la comtesse de Paris.



Paire de boucles d'oreilles de perles et diamants ayant appartenu à la reine Marie-Amélie, et provenant de sa mère Marie-Caroline d'Autriche, reine des Deux-Siciles et sœur de Marie-Antoinette. Photo Olivier Thomas, avec l'aimable autorisation de M^{me} la comtesse de Paris.

Broche de diamants, dont treize principaux brillants, montés sur or et argent, ayant appartenu à la princesse de Joinville, belle-fille du roi Louis-Philippe. Photo Olivier Thomas, avec l'aimable autorisation de M^{me} la comtesse de Paris.



A la page suivante: Collier, boucles d'oreilles, broche et deux boutons de robe de la parure de saphirs et diamants de la reine Marie-Amélie. Paris, Musée du Louvre.



*Ferdinand 1er
King of Deux-Siciles*



Wedding in 1768



*Marie-Caroline d'Autriche
sister of the queen Marie-Antoinette*



*Marie-Amélie de Bourbon
queen of the French*

Wedding in 1809



*Louis-Philippe d'Orléans
king of the French*



Francisca du Brésil



Wedding in 1843



*François d'Orléans
prince de Joinville*



Françoise d'Orléans



Wedding in 1863



*Robert d'Orléans
duc de Chartres*



*Jean d'Orléans
duc de Guise*



Wedding in 1899



Isabelle d'Orléans



*Henri d'Orléans
count of Paris*



Wedding in 1931



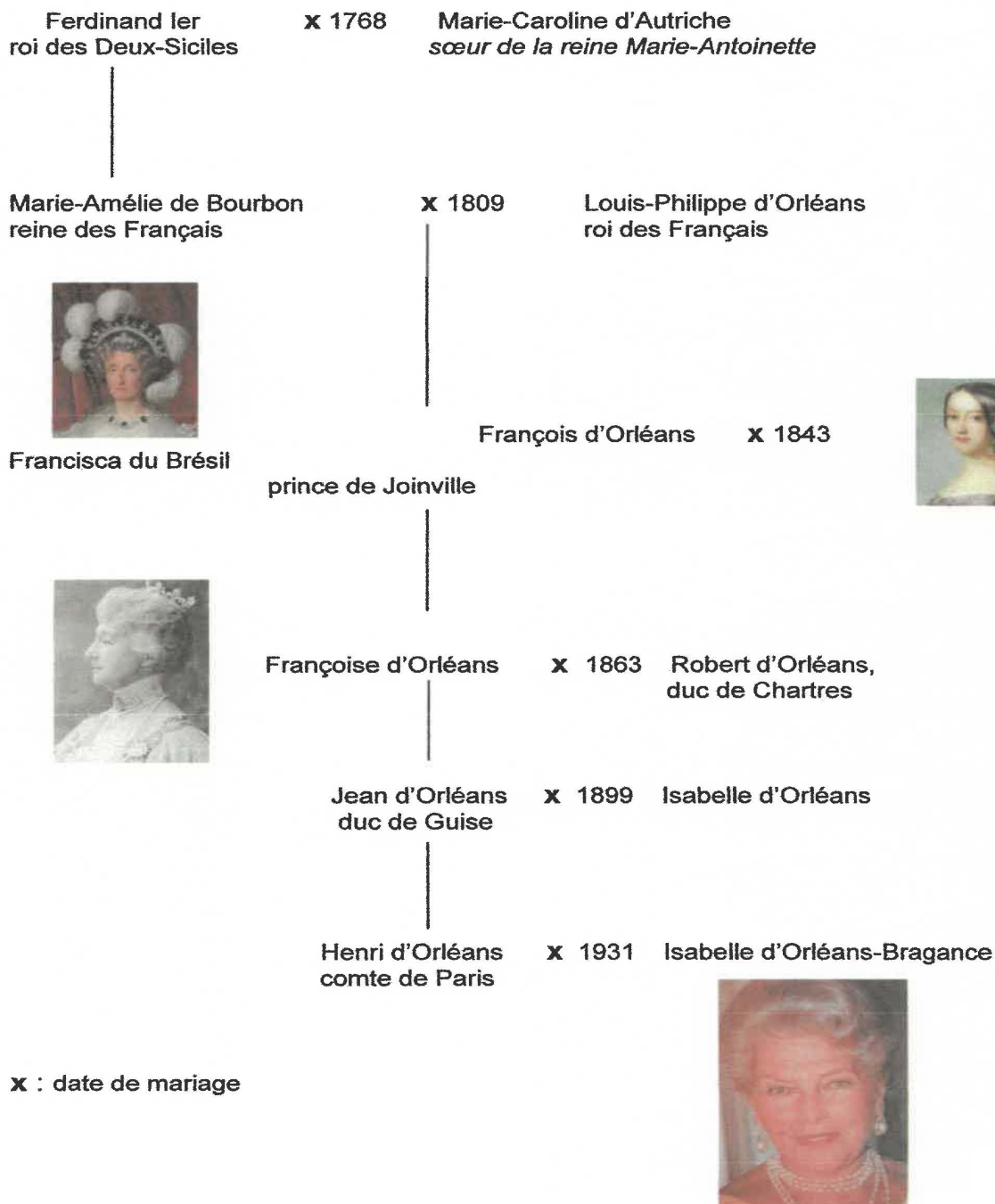
Isabelle d'Orléans-Bragance



*Simplified Family Tree of the descendants
of the King Louis-Philippe 1er and
the Queen Marie-Amélie of the French*



Arbre généalogique simplifié de la descendance du roi Louis-Philippe 1er et de la reine Marie-Amélie des Français



FRENCH CROWN JEWELS AUCTION COMPARABLES

Marie Antoinette Pearl

- 15.90 × 18.35 × 25.85 mm
- Comparable pearl of similar specifications: \$500,000
- Loosely attributed through an inventory note by Archduchess Marie Anne of Austria and Princess Elie de Bourbon-Parme
- Sold for \$41 million, representing a 7,100% premium over comparable pearls without provenance



Marie Antoinette Pink Diamond

- 10.38-carat Fancy Purple-Pink diamond
- Comparable diamond of similar specifications: \$1.4 million
- Provenance described by Christie's as "believed to have belonged to Marie Antoinette," based on family lineage.
- Sold for \$13.98 million, representing a 900% premium over a comparable ring without provenance



Empress Eugénie's Diamond Bow Brooch

- Old mine- and old European-cut diamond openwork bow (approx. 4,000 small diamonds), mounted in silver-topped gold, circa 1855
- Comparable brooch of similar specifications: \$550,000
- Sold to the Louvre for a reported \$10 million, representing a 1,900% premium over a comparable brooch without provenance



Napoleon I Diamond Brooch

- Central 13-carat old mine-cut oval diamond with an additional 6 carats in the surrounding stones
- Comparable brooch of similar specifications: \$200,000
- Described as "traditionally said to have belonged to Napoleon I," based on inventory references and contextual evidence
- Sold for \$4.4 million, representing a 2,100% premium over a comparable brooch without provenance



Queen Marie-Amélie's Pearl Earrings

- Pair of 14.9 mm natural saltwater drop pearls with an old mine-cut diamond surround
- Comparable earrings of similar specifications: \$800,000
- **Ironclad provenance confirmed by inventory records, documented direct descent from the original owner and period family photographs and portraits**
- Priced at \$7.95 million, representing a 990% premium over comparable earrings without provenance





Queen Marie-Amélie's Sapphire Set

- This set consists of a tiara, a necklace, a pair of earrings, two small brooches, one large brooch, a comb and two bracelets. Each jewel is mounted in gold and set with Ceylon sapphires, every stone encircled by diamonds.
- On October 19, 2025, the necklace, tiara and one earring from the set were stolen from the Louvre Museum, along with five additional objects.





Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History



Marie Louise Diadem

- This historic jewel originally created in 1810 as part of an elaborate parure by the Parisian court jeweller Marie-Étienne Nitot for Empress Marie Louise of Austria, the second wife of Napoleon I of France. It was commissioned as a wedding gift from Napoleon and formed the centrepiece of a set that also included a necklace, earrings, comb and belt buckle.





Please see a video of our CEO, Bill Rau, speaking about the extraordinary significance of these earrings. Never before have we had the opportunity to offer French Crown jewels of this caliber, and such an opportunity is unlikely to arise again.



M.S.  Rau
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