S.J. PHILLIPS

Late 19th / early 20th century graduated emerald bead, diamond and gold chain medieval revival necklace by Charles Rivaud, Paris c.1900,

the fancy interlinked gold flexible rope chain spaced by sixteen graduated polished emerald beads, these variously oval-ish in shape, flanked by reeded gold collarettes each of which set around with four rose cut diamond collets, ropetwist wirework detail, inscribed 'RIVAUD', together with a fitted case with gilt stamp of Charles Rivaud: 'CH. RIVAUD. 20, rue Truffaut, PARIS'.

Charles Rivaud (1859-1923)

A champion of jewellery and the wider decorative arts, Charles Rivaud was a jeweller and goldsmith working in Paris in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As well as working in collaboration with other artists, Rivaud's jewellery was sold under his own name in his own premises.

As one of the go-to jewellers for realising medal designs, he worked with Jean Dampt, Victor Prouve and the sculptor Oscar Roty, with whom he produced a bangle commemorating the centenary of the French Revolution in 1889, examples of which can occasionally be seen at auction in both gold and silver.

Described as working in the 'Neo-Merovingian' style in the Jewelers' Circular August 9, 1905, this emerald, gold and rose cut diamond bead necklace fits well into this style.

He organised smaller exhibitions for his own work and that of other decorative artists, was an award winning exhibitor at the Paris salons and was involved also as a judge at the larger Paris fairs.

In the 1908 publication 'Les Arts et Les Lettres' by Leon Riotor, (A Lemerre, Paris 1901', pp.136-139), the writer describes one of Rivaud's exhibitions as a 'small paradise of art' including paintings by Henri Martin and Menard and others, bronze sculptures, stone and earthenware pottery. Turning to the jewellery of Rivaud, there are included 'elegant but severe' chains with pectoral pendants, 'luxurious' rings and a harmonious use of the gems and materials, bracelets of light cut-away design. The writer asserts Rivaud is not led by other jewellers such as Massin, Froment-Meurice nor even 'the triumphant' Lalique, but succeeds in creating jewellery as a form of 'conscious decoration'.

A keen educator in his day, his son Andre took over the mantle of the firm after his death in 1923.
Length approximately 68cm / 27"
Weight: 131.5g