

IN ALLEGRIA - Francesco Vinea (1845-1902)



In a tavern a merry company is enjoying themselves. Two girls with tambourines are dancing to the tune of a lute played by a dashing cavalier.

Francesco Vinea studied in Florence and was later much influenced by J.L.E.Meissonier. He exhibited genre scenes and some historical paintings in Italy, Paris and London.

The fan leaf by Lauronce only features the main figures: the dancing girls and the gentlemen on the right. However the background is true to the original, reproducing with accuracy the large fireplace, the thick walls and the small window. For once Lauronce has not used his tell-tale foliage design to frame the scene.

The two copies of Vinea's painting known at the moment are worth a detailed study.

The first one is printed on white satin, the leaf applied with lace: bobbin lace elements applied to a background of machine-made net. The sticks are mother-of-pearl, pierced and gilded. This type of 'rich' decoration is most unusual among Lauronce fans, they are most of the time much less sophisticated.



The second one is printed on almond-green satin. The sticks are pierced bone with a pattern to be found on other Lauronce fans (See ' The Swans' or 'A Fete in the Middle-Ages'). The leaf is signed 'A.Lauronce on the right and 'V.Hugot' on the left. It is the fourth instance of a Lauronce fan featuring the signature of this Paris fanmaker, who also ordered prints from Lauronce's competitor Ploncard ((See 'Biography')


