

## A MARRIAGE AT THE TIME OF THE DIRECTOIRE - Kaemmerer or Alonso Perez

A gallant bridegroom is holding his new wife's purse, bouquet and fan so that the young woman can go down the stairs safely.

This scene appears under two different signatures: on the left, it is a watercolour by Frederick Hendrick Kaemmerer ((1839-1902), part of the Estate of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, that was sold in 2011 for the benefit of charity. On the right, the oil painting is by Mariano Alonso Perez (1857-1930).



Kaemmerer



Alonso Perez

Did Alonso Perez, 18 years younger than Kaemmerer, copy the Dutch painter ? Did Kaemmerer make a watercolour after the Spanish painter ? Both artists studied and worked in Paris, exhibiting at the same Salons and galleries. They may even have known this watercolour by Fortuny, himself a regular guest of Parisian art circles.



Fortuny

Anyway, the subject was well-known among fan painters and even features on a Duvelleroy fan.



Duvelleroy Fan

On the fan by Lauronce the female figure on the right has been omitted, thus giving the newly-wed couple better visibility.



One can also notice that the bride's dress is not as low-cut on the fan as on the original. A prudish draughtsman (Lauronce ?) has added a few inches of silk to the lady's décolletage. Scantly-clad figures are not uncommon on fans, but on those intended for the bourgeois middle-class, such as Lauronce's were, figures had better be properly clad. Fans being symbol status, a *bourgeoise* could not have the fan of a *cocotte*.



\*\*\*



The fan reproduces the painting faithfully, only omitting the female figure on the right, thus giving the newly-wed couple better visibility. One can also notice that the bride's dress is not as low-cut on the fan as on the original. A prudish draughtsman (Lauronce ?) has added a few inches of silk to the lady's décolletage. Scantly-clad figures are not uncommon on fans, but on those intended for the bourgeois middle-class, such as Lauronce's were, figures had better be properly clad. Fans being symbol status, a *bourgeoise* could not have the fan of a *cocotte*.

\*\*\*