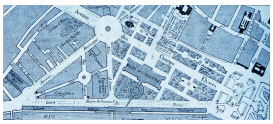
MARC MAISON
120, rue des rosiers
93400 Saint Ouen (France)
tel: +33.(0)6.60.62.61.90
contact@marcmaison.com



Map of the Universal Exhibition of 1855 in Paris



Provost, A view of the Palais de l'Industrie's grand nave, 1855, Saint-Gobain's Archives, Paris, Orsay Museum.



Max Berthelin, An inside view of the Gallery of Machines at the 1855 World's Fair, Paris, Carnavalet Museum.



Detail of the print « A Walk at the Paris 1855 World's Fair », Pellerin, 1855, National Library of France.



Cabinet by Fourdinois in enameled ebony, Great Medal of Honor of the 1855 Exhibition, Paris, Museum of Decorative Arts.

In **1855**, the **second World's Fair opened in Paris;** Response to the British challenge of the World's Fair of 1851 . Presented as the ***"Exhibition of Agricultural, Industrial and Fine Arts Products"***, it focuses on fine arts and agriculture, enabling to enhance the many French artists and the wealth of local products, including wine. For Napoleon III , it is a matter of affirming the existence of the **Second Empire** , a young regime faced with European and multi-decadal powers.

In response to the **Crystal Palace**, Napoleon III built the **Palace of Industry**, also designed as a large canopy. Organized in 30 classes divided into 8 groups, the Exhibition welcomes all nations under the same buildings, so as to be able to compare; A formula that will soon give way to separated National Pavilions. The Palais de l'Industrie exhibits industries, textile and chemical products, as well as furnishings in which cabinetmakers are standing out like **Fourdinois**, awarded a **Grand Medal of Honor for an enamelled ebony cabinet**, or **Jeanselme** to whom **Napoleon III purchased a large hunting buffet for his antechamber at the Palace of Saint-Cloud**. The house Tahan also makes sensation with a large aviary which is several times reproduced in the international newspapers, and exhibits unique furniture inlaid with the **porcelain marquetries** of Julien-Nicolas Rivart .

The World's Fair is also the occasion to present small and great inventions which in the long term have led to technical and social revolutions, visible all along the Seine in the **Galerie Annexe des Machines**. In 1855 were presented : the **pendulum of Foucault**, Mr. Loysel's percolator to make coffee flow, and the technique of **galvanoplasty**, which was taken over by the firm **Christofle** for the realization of bronze and will contribute to its success, or the Singer sewing machine that marks the beginning of the modern era of fashion.

Between the Palais de l'Industrie and the Galerie Annexe des Machines, the **Rotonde des Panoramas**, designed as the central pivot of the Exhibition, hosts luxury industries. Finally, 5,000 paintings are presented in a specific building called the **Palace of Fine Arts**. The 1855 World's Fair is a turning point for French painting, which consecrated the **great romantics** and gave a chance to a certain **Gustave Courbet** to make his counter-exhibition with the **Pavilion of Realism**.

The exhibition is a success with 14,000 participants and approximately 5,000 visitors, including **Queen Victoria** at the inauguration, or the **Emir Abd-El-Kader**, a great opponent of the colonization of Algeria, to whom Napoleon III gave freedom. And in a crowd of anonymous, some young still unknown artists are present, such as **Degas**, **Pissarro**, **Renoir** ...

See also

World's Fairs — 1851 World's Fair — 1862 World's Fair — Napoleon III style — Sèvres porcelain — The Denière house — François-Désiré Froment-Meurice

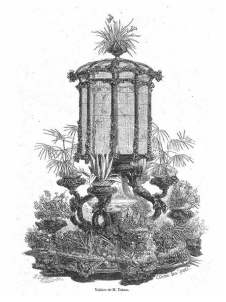
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Cabinet by Jackson & Graham, photograph by Andre Disderi, Compiegne Palace.



Jules Fossey, Jewel cabinet acquired by Empress Eugenie at the 1855 World's Fair, Compiegne Palace.



Tahan, Aviary illustrated by Charles Laboulay, Essay on industrial art, 1855, National Library of France.



Prosper Lafaye, Room of the Manufacture de Sevres' productions, 1855, Paris, Museum of Decorative Arts.



Foucault pendulum, presented at the 1855 Word's Fair, Paris, Musée des arts et métiers.



Gas Roster at the 1855 World's Fair, engraving from L'Illustration, Getty Image.



Sewing machine by Isaac Singer, patented model from 1851 and presented at the 1855 World's Fair. National Museum of American History, Washington.



Andre Disderi, The Fine Arts Pavilion at the 1855 World's Fair, Compiegne Palace.



Prosper Lafaye, Abd-El-Kader visits the Paris Universal Exhibition, 1855, Getty Image.