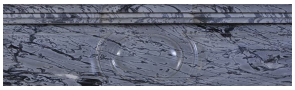
MARC MAISON

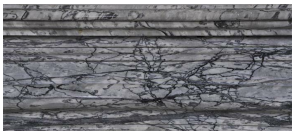
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Shade of Bleu Fleuri marble on a fireplace mantel, Marc Maison Gallery.



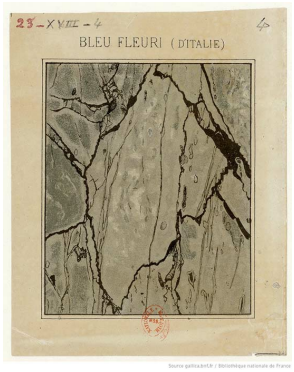
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Sketch of an Italian Bleu Fleuri sample, from the Emile Prisse d'Avennes Archives on Egypt, documents collected between 1827 and 1879, National Library of France.

Rare marble with a light background, the**Bleu Fleuri** marble takes its name from the freshness of its tint. Always **praised** for its delicate color, it is also known to offer different shapes of veins depending on how the block is cut. These veins, sometimes black, can be "*rectilinear or contoured, sometimes in network or variegated*," specifies Auguste Blanqui in his *Dictionary of Commerce and Industry* (1839).

According to his testimony, the Bleu Fleuri marble is in the 19th century "***highly esteemed in commerce and of considerable use***". This is typically a marble used for 19th century apartment fireplaces. Secondary, it is used to adorn objects.

It is for example the marble chosen by the**Emperor Napoleon I** for the fireplace that adorns his bedroom at the **Chateau of Compiègne**. In the sales catalogs of the second half of the century, furniture made in Bleu Fleuri are mentioned, such as a pedestal table, a square column, a Louis XIV style fireplace, a Pompadour fireplace or of Louis XV style .

Often compared to Turquin Blue , it is extracted like this one in**Seravezza** in Tuscany, near Carrara, also known to provide the most precious of all marbles, the White of Carrara. In France, it was extracted in the Hautes Pyrénées and Isère. Extracted also in Louvie in the Basses-Pyrenees and exported to the United Kingdom, it could occasionally be used for statuary.

Blanqui finally remarked that Bleu Fleuri is "*used for the same purposes as Turquin Blue*,***But it is of greater luxury*** "; A rather recurring remark. Le Bleu Fleuri is sold in the 19th century at the same prices as the Violet Breche .

See also

Bleu Turquin marble — Carrara marble — Brèche Violette — The Pompadour fireplace — The Directoire — Empire style

See our marble fireplaces

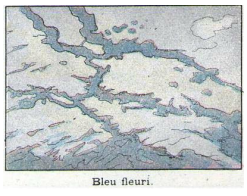


Illustration from the dictionary article by Claude Augé, "Marbre bleu fleuri", Larousse Universel, 1923.



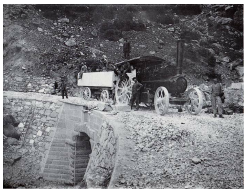
Empire Fireplace, with bronze ornaments, decorating the Emperor's Room at Compiègne Palace.



Ancient Directoire style fireplace, in Bleu Fleuri mable, Arabascato marble, and porcelain cameos.



Marble quarries, Seravezza, Toscana, Italy.



Transportation of the marble by locomotive in the Seravezza quarries, photograph from 1908, Henraux Fondation.