

ORIENTALISM AND THE ARABIAN HORSE PART IV

FRANÇOIS HIPPOLYTE LALASSE

By Judith Wich-Wenning


1810 NANCY – 1884 PARIS

WE OWE SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS OF ARABIAN HORSES TO THE FRENCH ARTIST FRANÇOIS HIPPOLYTE LALASSE. HE LEFT AN EXTENSIVE OPUS IN HIS VERY OWN, RATHER REALISTIC STYLE. LALASSE LOVED TO DEPICT REFINED HORSES WITH BIG EYES AND EXOTIC TYPE. HIS OFTEN BEAUTIFULLY COLOURED LITHOGRAPHS ARE TODAY SOUGHT-AFTER COLLECTOR'S ITEMS.

Born in 1810 in Nancy, Hippolyte Lalasse was a pupil of the gifted painter and engraver Charlet. Lalasse later on became his adjoining professor at Polytechnique where he lectured from 1839 to 1877. The publisher Charpentier commissioned him to illustrate his book on the costumes from Bretagne. From 1835 on, Lalasse also exhibited at the salons. Hippolyte Lalasse published a considerable number of lithographs on regional costumes and uniforms. His illustrations of Oriental costumes are especially remarkable – they show Lalasse's great love to detail.

Despite his beautiful oil paintings and watercolours, Hippolyte Lalasse's strongest point was certainly graphic. He portrayed many stallions and mares who were imported from the Orient to France in order to improve local horse

breeding. He illustrated, for example, the work "La Connaissance Générale du Cheval" (1861), "Atlas Statistique de la Production des Chevaux en France" (1850), and "Chevaux de Race de tous Pays".

Hippolyte Lalasse died in 1884 at the age of 74 years in Paris. 

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