



EARLY 20TH CENTURY FRENCH VILLAGE OIL PAINTING BY PAUL JOSEPH BARIAN

\$2,900

SKU: 261-416

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Richly textured and full of rustic character, this antique French village scene is an original oil on canvas by Paul Joseph Barian (1875–1942). Crafted in France circa 1920, the composition depicts a picturesque rural courtyard dominated by an old timber and stucco farmhouse with projecting balconies, tiled roofs, ladders, weathered beams, and adjoining outbuildings.

Several figures animate the courtyard beneath the imposing architecture, while scattered barrels, baskets, tools, lumber, and farm implements bring an appealing sense of everyday country life to the scene. Barian worked with energetic, visible brushwork and a warm earthy palette of ochre, umber, cream, deep green, and terracotta, contrasted against the pale blue sky. Particularly attractive are the passages of thicker impasto throughout the foliage, architecture, and foreground, which give the painting considerable depth and texture. The work is signed “Barian” in the lower right corner.

Paul Joseph Barian (1875–1942) was a French painter, draftsman, and lithographer born in La Ferté-Gaucher, Seine-et-Marne. A listed artist documented in Bénézit, he studied under the celebrated academic painter Jean-Léon Gérôme as well as Alexandre Leleu. Barian first exhibited at the Salon des Artistes Français in 1904 and later became a regular exhibitor there during the 1920s and 1930s.

His long Salon career brought considerable official recognition. He received successive distinctions during the 1920s, culminating in a gold medal in 1928, after which he exhibited hors concours, and he was appointed a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur in 1935. His known body of work encompasses portraits, elderly character studies, craftsmen, rural figures, Flemish interiors, architectural subjects, and scenes documenting traditional provincial life. Recorded Salon works include *Le Vieux Lézard*, *L'Antiphonaire*, *Tisserand Flamand*, *Intérieur Flamand*, *Vieille Normande*, *Trois Générations*, and *Intérieur de la Cathédrale de Toulouse*.

Barian's paintings are particularly appreciated for their sympathetic observation of ordinary people and vernacular surroundings, combining academic training with increasingly loose, expressive brushwork. The present farmhouse scene fits especially well within this aspect of his oeuvre, capturing both the architecture and unpretentious daily life of rural France. His work continues to appear on the international art market, and examples remain represented in public auction records.



The painting is presented in a later giltwood frame with classical fluted and beaded decoration and a linen liner, providing an elegant contrast to the informal rural subject. A Bénézit biographical reference for the artist is affixed to the reverse.

Excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with minor wear consistent with its antique character.

Dimensions: 29.5" W x 24.75" H