

# ARTY CATS, con't

Antoine-Louis Barye, France  
by GREG BALAGIAN

Antoine-Louis Barye (1795-1875) was a prominent French animalist, a sculptor of animals.

Barye started his career as a goldsmith and in 1818 he was admitted to the School of Fine Arts in Paris. He discovered his love of portraying animals while making pencil drawings of the animals in the Gardens of Plants in Paris.

Felines apparently had a special place in Barye's heart, as he made many small and large scale sculptures of lions, tigers, leopards and jaguars. As part of the Romanticism move-



Louis Barye's *Lion and Serpent* is in the sel-vage of a 2018 souvenir sheet commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Louvre Museum.

ment of the time, he emphasized nature and emotion, often depicting violent struggles using bronze, clay or plaster.

Most recently on a stamp, his magnificent life-size sculpture, *Lion Crushing a Serpent*, appears on the selvage of the 2018 miniature sheet from Sierra Leone commemorating the 225th anniversary of the opening of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The roaring lion has pinned a large, hissing snake to the ground that is coiled and ready to strike at the lion. Ready for battle, the lion is tense with spread claws.

A much smaller version—7 x 8 x 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches— is at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. 🐾

