PAIR OF BOOKENDS FRANZ HAGENAUER CA. 1930

Pair of bookends featuring woman's head, Franz Hagenauer, Werkstätte Hagenauer Wien, ca. 1930, brass polished, marked

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Franz Hagenauer first designed his radically reduced heads in the late 1920s, inspired by the contemporary avant-garde and Futurism. Here as well, the heads chased from brass are reduced to an essential ovoid form. Only the stylized curls on the sides suggest a woman's head. The almost cartoonishly small mouth is also already featured in early works by Franz Hagenauer from around 1930.
The draft for the bookends is well documented in Hagenauer’s sample book with model number 2364. A contemporary photograph also shows a similar mask-like head next to a three-armed candlestick.

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