PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

19th Century Louis XIV Desk



8 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 81 cm

Width : 147 cm

Height : 75 cm

Description

Royal Antique is proud to present this exceptional 19th-century console or writing table, a magnificent embodiment of the Napoleon III style. This grand piece uniquely synthesizes stylistic elements from the Louis XIV, Louis XVI, and Empire periods, demonstrating a sophisticated fusion characteristic of the mid-19th century's revivalist aesthetic. Crafted with exquisite attention to detail, this table showcases a blend of functional design and luxurious decoration.Materials and Construction:Ebonized Wood with French Varnish: The primary structure of the table is meticulously crafted from a rich hardwood, expertly ebonized and finished with a distinct black French varnish. This lustrous, deep black coating is characteristic of high-end Empire style furniture and enhances the

Dealer

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overall luxurious aesthetic, while also providing aesthetic appeal and resistance to corrosion.Contrasting Tabletop: A very remarkable element is the tabletop, which presents a striking contrast to the high-gloss body. Its surface is not coated with lacquer, resulting in a unique matte and discreet finish. The shape of the tabletop is an elegant combination of oval and rectangular forms, with lacquered edges and a grooved bead-shaped profile, finished with fine gilt bronze banding.Brass and Gilt Bronze Adornments: The table is lavishly decorated with a harmonious interplay of brass and gilt bronze. The "golden decorative elements of the table have a Louis XVI and Louis XIV style appearance", adding layers of historical richness.Exquisite Design and Stylistic Influences:Drawers and Skirt Details: The apron (skirt) of the table cleverly incorporates two functional drawers. Along the entire skirt, intricately rendered motifs of acanthus cartouches are framed by precise golden rectangular lines, reflecting a classical symmetry.Central Royal Medallion: In the center of the table's apron, a prominent gilded bronze mount resembles an ancient image of a king, a clear reference to Napoleon's deliberate use of classical history to underscore his glory and importance.Ornate Legs with Unique Accents: The table is supported by four beautifully ornate legs, combining gilt bronze and dark lacquer. The acanthus leaf pattern gracefully stretches along the legs, creating a harmonious visual link with the table's apron. A unique accent in the legs is the use of "oyster or different shell shaped ornaments in brass," with gilt bronze on shell moldings, imparting a subtle "coastal vibe" to the table, possibly produced in the Louis XIV style.Sophisticated Stretcher Base: Beneath the tabletop, the rounded legs are connected by a meticulously crafted serpentine X-shaped stretcher, merging elegantly in the center with a large circle. Where the stretchers and circle connect, accent pieces made with ormolu

acanthus leaf moldings further enhance the opulence. The design skillfully balances the "angularity of the rectangles and squares" of the top with the "all around" form of the bases.Period Grandeur and Craftsmanship:This antique French Napoleon III table is a testament to the era's preference for grandeur and sumptuous, yet not overly opulent, decorations. Its complex composition and the masterful application of various historical styles highlight the exceptional skill of the 19th-century cabinetmakers. The contrast between the matte tabletop and the polished lacquered body, along with the precise brass and gilt bronze work, renders this piece a visually striking work of art.This exceptional Napoleon III table is not merely a functional item; it is a profound piece of art history, reflecting a period of rich stylistic amalgamation in French furniture design. Its unparalleled craftsmanship, luxurious materials, and intricate detailing make it a highly desirable acquisition for discerning collectors and connoisseurs of fine antique furniture, promising to be a magnificent focal point in any grand interior.