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Napoleon III Boule Commode



3 750 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 43 cm

Width : 81 cm

Height : 111 cm

Description

Royal Antique is proud to offer this exquisite 19th-century meuble d'appui (a type of display or support cabinet), a remarkable example of the Napoleon III Boule style. This piece represents a quintessential fusion of unparalleled French craftsmanship and opulent aesthetics, showcasing the finest marquetry work and bronze mounts of the era.

Design and Materials: Exceptional Boulle Marquetry: The cabinet is entirely adorned with intricate Boulle marquetry, a sophisticated technique utilizing brass and tortoiseshell (or ebonized wood simulating tortoiseshell). This elaborate inlay creates a stunning, shimmering contrast against the dark background, forming complex and elegant patterns often inspired by intricate arabesques, interlacing foliage, and classical scrollwork.

Rich Cabinetry: Crafted from

Dealer

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a dark wood, likely ebonized fruitwood or mahogany, the piece boasts a glossy, highly polished finish that accentuates the depth and richness of the marquetry. **Curved Silhouette:** The overall silhouette features subtle curves and a refined serpentine shape, particularly evident in the lower apron and top, characteristic of the curvilinear elegance favored during the Napoleon III period, imparting a sense of grace and movement. **Sumptuous Gilt Bronze Mounts:** The piece is lavishly embellished with finely chased mercury-gilded bronze hardware and decorative mounts. The handles and escutcheons on the door are intricately designed, featuring classical motifs such as floral elements and stylized masks, adding to the regal appearance. The corners of the cabinet are flanked by substantial gilt bronze caryatids or elaborate foliate mounts, while the edges are defined by delicate bronze fillets that frame the marquetry panels. The scrolled feet (cabriole-style, though more robust on a cabinet) are adorned with rich bronze mounts, enhancing its classical appeal. A prominent central gilt bronze mount graces the lower apron, completing the opulent design. **Black Marble Top:** A polished black marble top typically crowns such pieces, providing a durable and elegant surface that perfectly complements the dark wood and radiant gilt bronze. **Significance and Craftsmanship:** This meuble d'appui is not merely a functional storage piece but a stunning work of art, exemplifying the grandeur and refinement of the Napoleon III style. It represents the apex of 19th-century cabinet-making, where the meticulous application of Boulle marquetry, often revived from the Baroque era, combined with superior bronze work, created objects of unparalleled luxury. The flawless execution of every detail reflects the high demand for such prestigious furniture among the imperial court and wealthy collectors of the time. **Value and Display:** Perfect for any discerning collector or connoisseur of fine French furniture, this cabinet is a timeless addition to any interior. It would serve as a magnificent focal

point in a classical living room, a grand library, a formal dining room, or a prestigious study, embodying the opulence and masterful artistry of the Second Empire.