

## Pendulum - Lerolle A Paris



#### 10 000 EUR

Period: 19th century

Condition: Très bon état

Material: Bronze

Length: 47 cm

Width: 27 cm

Height: 69 cm

## Description

Royal Antique is proud to offer this truly exceptional mantel clock, a magnificent testament to the opulence and classical grandeur of French horology from the early 19th century. Bearing the distinguished signature "Lerolle à Paris," this timepiece combines a powerful architectural form with the vibrant luxury of malachite and the exquisite artistry of gilt bronze. Design and Materials: Striking Architectural Structure: The clock is conceived as a classical temple or mausoleum, featuring a robust rectangular body meticulously veneered in a rich, variegated green malachite. This vibrant and highly prized stone creates a dramatic visual impact, typical of the most luxurious pieces of the era.Luxurious Gilt Bronze Mounts: The malachite body is framed and adorned with an abundance of finely chased

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and mercury-gilded bronze mounts. These include: A prominent projecting plinth with highly sculptural lion paw feet, evoking ancient Roman design. A central, finely detailed classical mask (possibly a Medusa or a lion protome) below the dial.Large, powerful winged sphinx or griffon figures flanking the dial, acting as supports or guardians. A substantial architectural cornice topped by a frieze of classical anthemion or acanthus scrolls, surmounted by a pediment. Two imposing gilt bronze lion head finials flanking the central figure on the pediment. Figural Allegory: Crowning the clock is a monumental gilt bronze sculpture of a draped classical female figure, likely an allegorical representation of History, Learning, or Fame, resting her arm on a lion. This adds significant artistic and symbolic weight to the entire composition. The plinth supporting this figure is crafted from a contrasting rich blue lapis lazuli, creating a further layer of luxurious material contrast. Horological Excellence: The circular gilt bronze dial features crisp black Roman numerals, an outer minute track, and elegant blued steel hands. It is clearly signed "Lerolle à Paris," indicating its origin from a highly reputable Parisian clockmaker. The presence of the intricate Lépine-style caliber movement (consistent with a period where such precision was valued) is implied by the superior external craftsmanship. Movement and Condition: The clock houses a high-quality eight-day movement with a wire-suspended pendulum, typical of the finest Parisian productions. It strikes the hour and half-hour clearly on a bell, demonstrating its robust and reliable mechanics. We are pleased to confirm that this magnificent timepiece is in excellent and perfect working condition, having been recently cleaned and meticulously maintained by a professional watchmaker. It comes complete with its pendulum, winding key, and bell.Period Significance and Craftsmanship:Dating from the Empire period transitioning into the early Restauration (circa 1810-1825), this clock

perfectly encapsulates the era's fascination with classical antiquity and its desire for grand, imposing forms. The lavish use of exotic materials like malachite and lapis lazuli, combined with the unparalleled skill in gilt bronze casting and chasing, was a hallmark of pieces commissioned by the highest echelons of society. The precise execution of every detail, from the sculptural elements to the horological mechanism, reflects the very pinnacle of Parisian luxury craftsmanship. This magnificent malachite and gilt bronze mantel clock by Lerolle à Paris is not merely a timepiece; it is a powerful work of art and a significant historical artifact, representing an invaluable acquisition for any serious collector of imperial and neoclassical decorative arts.