PROANTIC
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P.-b. Marcion, Empire Period Dressing Table, France, Circa 1810



18 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Mahogany

Length : 99

Height : 155

Depth : 48

Description

Elegant Empire period dressing table in mahogany and mahogany veneer attributed to P.-B. Marcion, decorated with rich chiseled and gilded bronze ornamentation. Surmounted by an oval-shaped psyche mirror, decorated with a frieze of ivy and small flowers, with uprights each supporting two light-arms. Composed in the lower part of a console covered with a black marble top, it opens on the belt with three drawers, richly decorated with palmettes, surrounding a central cartouche in projection decorated with two winged victories embracing an allegorical figure and revealing a sliding tablet forming a writing desk.It is supported by two console uprights at the front and two pilaster uprights at the rear, resting on a concave-shaped plinth ending in casters.The ancestor of the

Dealer

Tobogan Antiques
Furniture and Art objects from the 19th Century
Tel : 0142868999
Mobile : 0609471374

14 avenue Matignon
Paris 75008

dressing table appeared during Antiquity in the form of a dressing table, named after the cloth placed on it. In the Middle Ages, women used ordinary tables on which polished metal mirrors were placed.In the 18th century and during the first half of the 19th century, the dressing table became essential and responded to a social reality, with important people receiving their guests while they were preparing themselves.Precious woods and rich gilded bronze ornamentation are used for these pieces of furniture, which, beyond their practical aspect, also reflect the social status of the person who owns them. Some talented cabinetmakers transformed the dressing table from a practical piece of furniture into a piece of furniture with transformations and combinations, and some models, like the dressing table presented here, can also serve as a writing table or a game table.Biography :Pierre-Benoît Marcion (1769-1840) worked as acabinetmaker from 1798 to 1817 and was one of the main suppliers of Napoleon Iafter Jacob, specializing in mahogany furniture decorated with gilded bronzes. Hisfirst official order was the delivery of 82 mahogany chairs for the Senate in1801. From 1805 onwards,he regularly supplied the Garde-Meuble Imperial, including most of the athéniennesfor the imperial palaces. Initially established at 41 rueNeuve-des-Petits-Champs, he moved in 1801 to 666 rue Helvétius (Saint-Anne)then to 3 rue de Choiseul from 1811 to 1816. He mainly supplied the Pavillon duMail, the Petit and Grand Trianon, the Palais de Compiègne, and Fontainebleau.Upon the return of the Bourbons, he had the supplies made during the last yearsof the Empire paid for and abandoned cabinetmaking in 1817. Bibliography :Les Ébénistes du XIXe siècle, Denise Ledoux-Lebard, Editions de l'Amateur, 1984, pp.461-469.