



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

19th Century Cabinet, Napoleon III Period



45 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 98 cm

Height : 119 cm

Depth : 48 cm

Description

We are honored to present this extraordinary console table, an eloquent masterpiece of the opulence, artistic ambition, and unparalleled craftsmanship that characterized early 19th-century France. This masterful piece perfectly embodies the spirit of the Empire style and its penchant for Antiquity, notably the Egyptomania born of the Napoleonic campaigns, manifested in a spectacular fusion of precious materials and powerful decorative elements.

Architectural Composition and Precious Materials: The table features a solid rectangular malachite top, whose deep green color and natural veining patterns create a mesmerizing surface of exceptional richness. Malachite, a semi-precious stone of great rarity, was sourced primarily from deposits in the Ural Mountains of

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Imperial Russia at this time, and its use in European interiors, particularly in France, symbolized the height of luxury and exoticism. The top is highlighted by a gilt bronze frieze, finely chiseled with classical motifs. The structure of the table is an architectural composition resting on a horizontal base also in malachite. The top is supported by six impressive gilt bronze caryatids, representing female figures draped in the antique style. These figures, executed with remarkable precision and grace, give a classical monumentality and elegance to the whole. Between these caryatids, decorative motifs in gilt bronze adorn the malachite panels, and two pairs of winged putti or genies, holding symbolic attributes, frame a central urn also in gilt bronze. The whole gives off an impression of power and refinement, typical of the period.

Imperial Symbolism and Ancient Evocations: The design of this table is fully in line with the Empire style, which aimed to reflect the grandeur and authority of the Napoleonic Empire by drawing direct inspiration from Greco-Roman and Egyptian models. Caryatids and allegorical motifs are direct borrowings from Antiquity, chosen for their ability to evoke power, wisdom, and durability. The sumptuous use of malachite underlines the attraction to rare and exotic materials, a trend reinforced by archaeological discoveries and distant countryside. A Historical Ceremonial Object: This console table was intended to adorn the most prestigious interiors--imperial palaces, private mansions of the high nobility or the wealthy bourgeoisie--where it served as a centerpiece, attracting all eyes. It is not only a functional piece of furniture, but a true work of art that testifies to the luxury and sophistication of the French decorative arts under the Empire.

Key Points & Acquisition Potential: Exceptional Materials: The rare and luxurious combination of malachite and high-quality gilt bronze creates a striking visual effect, emblematic of imperial opulence.

Authentic Empire Design: Its architecture,

caryatids and classical motifs mark it as a centerpiece of the Empire style, with clear influences from the Return from Egypt. Artistic Mastery: The fine carving of the caryatids and putti, as well as the precision of the chased bronzes, attest to the unparalleled skill of the craftsmen of the time. Historical Significance: This table is a valuable testimony to the taste and artistic trends that marked the beginning of the 19th century in France, under Napoleonic influence. Investment Potential: As a unique piece, of high quality, and of historical and artistic importance Certainly, this console table represents a very promising investment for any informed collector.