



## Exceptional Empire Mantel Clock " Allegory Of Wisdom " With Prudentia



8 600 EUR

Signature : Claude Galle (1759-1815)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Bronze

Length : 43

Height : 45

Depth : 18

### Description

See our website for more detailed photos: [LINK](#) We send this article worldwide, professionally packaged, with registered and fully insured shipping at a fair price. A rare and important allegorical French Empire mantel clock of exceptional quality, finely cast and chiselled in gilt and patinated bronze, presenting an elegant allegorical depiction of Prudentia, or Wisdom. The composition is surmounted by a graceful female figure in classical dress, seated in a richly ornamented Empire-style chair. Around her are carefully chosen attributes symbolising knowledge, reflection and discernment. In her right hand Prudentia holds a mirror, a traditional emblem of wisdom and self-knowledge, while in her left she delicately raises a floral wreath. To her side rests a stack of books, crowned by a

### Dealer

#### Apollo Art & Antiques

Exceptional clocks and gilt bronze objects of the 18th and 19th century

Tel : +31644551871 - FR - EN - DE - NL

Mobile : +31644551871 - WhatsApp

Fax : Instagram : @apollo\_art\_antiques

Amersfoort 3823 CJ

prominent hourglass, together signifying the breadth of learning and the measured acceptance of time's passage. The Latin maxim associated with Prudentia, *cognosce, elige, matura* ("examine, choose, act swiftly"), is reflected in the poised yet alert attitude of the figure, her pose embodying both contemplation and readiness for action. The clock movement is set within the seat of the chair, its white enamel dial inscribed à Paris and fitted with finely worked gilt-bronze hands. The chair itself is supported on bold lion's paw feet and embellished with lion heads at the crest, while its back is enriched with drapery and acanthus motifs. The stepped base, finished in a contrasting dark patina with a gilt counter-base, is decorated with acanthus leaves and a motif of scales, another attribute of Prudentia, symbolising balance, measure and sound judgement. The whole rests on six finely shaped feet, lending stability and harmony to the design. The striking interplay of rich mercury gilding against the dark patina gives the piece a commanding visual presence. With its precise modelling, abundant decorative detail and convincing iconography, this Empire clock with Prudentia in an allegory of wisdom, is an exceptional expression of Empire artistry. The movement, with anchor escapement, wire suspension and rack wheel, sounds the hours and half-hours on a bell. It is offered in excellent working condition, complete with its original pendulum, bell and key. Expertly cleaned and remarkably well preserved, this magnificent timepiece retains its original, lustrous mercury gilding. Origin: Paris, Empire period circa 1810. Dimensions: Height 45 cm (17.7''), Width 43 cm (16.9''), Depth 18 cm (7.1''). Literature- Elke Niehüser, "French Bronze Clocks", 1997, p.84-85, p.219 #489.