



"hermès" Gilt And Patinated Bronze Clock Charles X Period 1830-1840



4 950 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 41 cm

Height : 66 cm

Depth : 20 cm

Description

A substantial French bronze mantel clock: rectangular plinth with applied musical trophy, a rocky mound framing the dial, and an accomplished figure of Hermes/Mercury seated above. The god is identified by his caduceus, winged cap (petasos) and winged sandals (talaria)--canonical attributes in Classical art linking him to swift messaging, travel and commerce.

Materials & Workmanship

Finely chased bronze with olive-brown patina for the figure, contrasted by richly fire-gilt bronze mounts for the rocky base, dial surround, rooster, trophy and highlights (wings, ankle band). The finish shows the visual hallmarks of early-19th-century mercury gilding (ormolu), with matte grounds and burnished accents.

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Dial & Iconography

Round dial with silvered Roman chapter ring and a guilloché gilt center; the bezel is cast as a snake biting its tail--the ouroboros, widely read as a sign of eternity and the cyclical nature of time, a fitting conceit for clocks.

At the left stands a rooster, an occasional attribute of Hermes and a broader emblem of dawn and watchfulness; in France it also resonates with the national symbol, the Gallic rooster.

The plinth bears an applied musical trophy centered by a lyre, a neoclassical motif frequently encountered on Restoration/Charles X figurative clocks with prominent sculptural groups.

Dating & Style

Scale, casting quality, mercury gilding and mythological subject correspond to Paris production of the Charles X / early Louis-Philippe decades, circa 1830-1840.

Movement

French mouvement de Paris with bell striking visible to the rear; two winding squares (time/strike) and Breguet-type hands. (Working condition not assessed at listing time; sold as seen.)

Condition

Original gilding well preserved with light age wear; olive patina to the figure in very good state; sharply chased facial features, fingers and toes. Minor marks consistent with age.

Dimensions

Height: 66 cm Width: 41 cm Depth: 20 cm