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Louis-philippe Charles Style Mantel Clock



12 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 56 cm

Height : 76 cm

Depth : 23 cm

Description

This mantel clock elegantly illustrates the stylistic transition between the end of the French Empire period (circa 1800-1830) and the emergence of the Second Empire style, which developed in the mid-19th century. It represents a pivotal moment in the history of French decorative arts, where the strict and monumental classicism of the Empire gradually gave way to more eclectic, refined, and ornamental forms, foreshadowing the tastes of bourgeois and aristocratic society under the reigns of Louis-Philippe (1830-1848) and then Charles X (1824-1830). During this period, clocks and other decorative objects retained the influence of the Empire style in their overall lines and balanced composition. References to Greco-Roman antiquity, symmetry in structure, and restrained volumes are all present. However,

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artists and craftsmen began to introduce more varied and decorative elements: more detailed friezes, naturalistic floral motifs, garlands, scrolls, and richer, more finely chased gilt-bronze ornaments. These innovations heralded the evolution toward the Louis-Philippe style and the Charles X period, where refinement, comfort, and decorative elegance became essential. The clock, through its forms and ornamentation, reflects this subtle evolution: it retains an architectural and classical base typical of the Empire, while incorporating lighter and more varied details. The carefully chased gilt bronzes highlight the reliefs and decorative motifs, bringing luminosity and refinement to the whole. Each decorative element, whether leaves, ribbons, garlands, or friezes, contributes to a harmonious composition where classical rigor blends with a freer, more whimsical elegance. The dial, often in white enamel, features meticulously drawn Roman numerals and refined hands, while the clockwork mechanism, true to Parisian traditions, ensures precise and regular timekeeping, striking the hours and half-hours. This marriage of mechanical perfection and decorative excellence exemplifies the high quality of 19th-century French clockmaking. This clock is far more than a simple timekeeping instrument: it is a complete work of art, a synthesis of tradition and stylistic innovation. It bears witness to the delicate transition between the rigor of the Empire period and the sophistication of subsequent styles, offering a valuable insight into the evolution of French taste and decorative arts in the 19th century. Its charm lies in its ability to combine balance, elegance, and decorative variety. The Louis-Philippe / Charles X style clock symbolizes a moment in history when France, strong in its classical heritage, paved the way for a refined eclecticism that would characterize artistic and decorative creations up to the Second Empire and beyond.