



## Important Portrait Of A Clergyman Who Was A Musician - Circa 1830.



1 850 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

### Description

Oil on canvas, mounted on a wooden panel. This portrait depicts a member of the secular clergy, probably active in the Southern Netherlands or northern France during the first third of the 19th century. The sitter wears the traditional black buttoned cassock and white collar, vestments still common in ecclesiastical circles during the 1820s and 1830s, despite the changes in dress that occurred after the Revolution. This adherence to earlier customs was particularly observed among teaching priests, canons, and choirmasters. The clergyman is seated in an armchair upholstered in red velvet, holding a small bound book in his left hand. To his right, an open musical score and a stringed instrument--a cello or a late bass viol--clearly establish the sitter's connection to musical practice. During this period, many

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clergymen still taught singing, directed choirs, and copied musical scores for worship. The combined presence of the book, the musical score, and the instrument thus reflects the musical and literary culture of the Restoration clergy. The setting includes a mahogany cabinet whose console-shaped uprights, combined with understated molding, correspond to French and Belgian production of the 1820s and 1830s. This piece of furniture provides a reliable stylistic marker for dating the painting to the first third of the 19th century. The green drapery, the sketched bookcase, and the ordered composition extend the iconographic patterns of the portrait of a cultured cleric, perpetuated in provincial Neoclassical painting after 1820. The face, rendered with calm modeling and even lighting, illustrates the continued academic style inherited from the 18th century, still practiced in religious circles at the time. This combination of traditional elements and more recent stylistic features supports a dating to around 1830. The canvas, exhibiting regular craquelure, was relined onto a wooden panel several decades ago. This restoration technique, quite common in the 20th century, ensures good overall stability. Good condition. Later blackened and gilded wood frame, 20th century. Visible dimensions: 145 × 107 cm. Dimensions with frame: 158 × 120 cm.