



Clock "allegory Of Maritime Commerce" Signed Jn Bte Helye, Paris, Louis XVI Period



4 750 EUR

Signature : Jean-Baptiste Helye, à Paris

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 40 cm

Height : 48 cm

Depth : 19 cm

Description

A refined Parisian mantel clock depicting an allegory of maritime trade and prosperity. The case takes the form of a boat on the waves, symbolising navigation and commerce. At the centre sits the dial, framed by two finely modelled figures: to the left, a draped female deity, likely Fortune or Abundance, pointing to an inscribed scroll that celebrates prosperity; to the right, a turbaned man in Oriental attire, representing trade with the Levant. At the prow, a winged putto retrieves an anchor, while barrels and bales evoke maritime cargo and abundance. The clock rests upon a white marble base embellished with gilt-bronze scrolls, rosettes and floral ornaments in Louis XVI taste. The enamel dial bears the signature Jn Bte Helye - à Paris, which also appears on

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the movement's backplate. Jean-Baptiste Helye, recorded as a Parisian master clockmaker in 1762, was renowned for the precision of his Paris movements and for working with prominent bronze casters of his time. The Paris movement features silk-thread suspension, striking the hours and half-hours on a bell. The mercury gilding remains largely original, with fine chiselling and warm tonality typical of the late 18th century. Condition: very good, with original gilding showing minor age wear; enamel dial with old hairlines near the winding holes; strike and movement not tested over long duration. Dimensions: Height - 48 cm Width - 40 cm Depth - 19 cm