



Mahogany Jewelry Box With Cut Corners, From The Empire Period.



1 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Mahogany

Description

A very fine rectangular jewelry box with canted corners, made of mahogany and adorned with brass inlays, a high-quality French piece dating from the Empire period or the very beginning of the Restoration (circa 1805-1820). Its rigorous and architectural geometry gives this box a particularly balanced silhouette, characteristic of the Neoclassical vocabulary of the early 19th century. This form inevitably evokes, by purely formal analogy, the silhouette of the future "emerald" cut in jewelry, which, however, would not be truly codified until the beginning of the 20th century. This correspondence remains strictly visual: the volumes primarily reflect the Empire taste for clarity of lines, mastery of proportions, and a deliberate classical inspiration. The corners are decorated with lozenge-shaped

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brass motifs, while the front is fitted with a wide brass plate incorporating a "clover" type cylinder lock, typical of high-quality locks frequently used on valuable boxes and cases. The key is missing, but the presence of this barrel testifies to meticulous and elaborate locksmithing. Around the lock, large brass arcs structure the composition; their design evokes a nocturnal and protective symbolism, particularly appropriate for a casket intended to hold precious objects. The lid is centered with a blank brass escutcheon, framed by finely stylized branches, whose design is more reminiscent of the olive tree than the laurel, the traditional symbol of peace, wisdom, and stability. The absence of engraving reinforces the timeless and elegant character of the piece, while also suggesting that it may originally have been intended for personalization. The casket is in remarkable condition. The carefully selected mahogany is covered with an old French polish, now in perfect condition. This polish has been very lightly and respectfully refinished, without altering the patina or the historical significance of the object, preserving all the depth and warmth of the wood. The interior is lined with a later, perfectly preserved yellow moiré silk, whose hue harmonizes beautifully with the mahogany and brass, highlighting the precious nature of the casket. Through the quality of its craftsmanship, the mastery of its materials, and the restrained richness of its decoration, this casket is a prime example of the high-level Parisian production of the Empire period. Its decorative vocabulary and level of finish are reminiscent of the work of great Parisian goldsmiths and cabinetmakers, such as Martin-Guillaume Biennais, although no precise attribution can be made. Nevertheless, it is an object of exceptional quality, representative of the high end of the period, both in its design and its craftsmanship. Dimensions: Width: 26.5 cm Depth: 18 cm Height: 11.5 cm