



Mahogany Clock, Empire Style, Colin, Paris (1804-1810)

1 200 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Height : 35,00cm

Description

This magnificent clock is a refined example of French craftsmanship, combining functionality and artistic expression. It was made during the French Empire, in the first quarter of the 19th century. Napoleon's Egyptian campaign sparked a renewed interest in classical antiquity. This is reflected in the two high-quality gilt-bronze sphinxes set in niches at the base of the case. Above the sphinxes, beneath the dial, is a gilt-bronze ornament with swans and floral motifs. The understated mahogany case has a door at the back providing access to the movement and pendulum. The case rests on four gilt-brass spherical feet. The round enamel dial features a slim aperture with Roman numerals for the hours and Arabic numerals for the quarter-hours. The whole is protected by a domed

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glass set within a guilloché gilt-brass ring. The dial is signed Colin à Paris. In the archives of Parisian watchmaking, such as Tardy's reference work, *Dictionnaire des Horlogers Français* (Dictionary of French Watchmakers), the independent watchmaker Colin is mentioned as an active craftsman during the Directory (1795-1799), the Consulate (1799-1804), and the Empire period (1804-1815). His workshop was probably located on the rue du Bac, on the banks of the Seine. As Colin was an independent master who did not produce on a large scale, his authentic pieces are relatively rare and highly prized by collectors of early 19th-century French watchmaking.