



Straw Marquetry Writing Cabinet: Craftsman's Work And Masonic Decorations.



5 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 35 cm

Height : 45 cm

Depth : 25 cm

Description

An exceptional small cabinet or writing desk in straw marquetry. Early 19th century, dated 1821/1822. A piece of journeyman craftsmanship with strong Masonic decorative motifs. The lower section comprises two drawers, while the upper section features a writing surface with two inkwell compartments (inkwells missing) and storage compartments. In the center, framed by two columns, is a set of four drawers and three apses. The central apse, surmounted by a star, is decorated with a mirror on its back and fleur-de-lis on the sides. It is closed by a removable panel. Each exterior face is finely crafted with numerous classical designs in colored straw marquetry. The side panels are decorated with large romantic scenes, landscapes, and other stylized motifs. The back is adorned

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with a large 11-pointed star placed in the center of the panel, facing away from the mirror in the central apse. The pediment on the front, dated 1821, with its two figures (man and woman), evokes balance, harmony, and romantic passion. The lid is decorated with finely rendered musical instruments enclosed within a large oval medallion. Masonic decorative motifs are primarily found on the front, with two columns (Boaz and Jachin) resting on two pedestals whose panels are richly adorned with symbols: the compass, trowel, hammer, hourglass, plumb line, stone, love knots, etc. The piece is in fair condition with some losses and distortions.

Restorations have been carried out. It is dated "begun on October 1, 1821, and finished on March 5, 1822 ". A signature with an initial is located in the central alcove.