French Clock, Circa 1830



7 500 EUR

Signature : Lepine & Neveu.

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gilt bronze

Length : 16,5

Height : 16 cm

Depth : 14 cm

Description

A gilt French clock, signed Lepine & Neveu. The movement features a Swiss lever escapement and a striking mechanism for the hours and half-hours on a small bell. Regarding the representation of King Francis I's symbol on a 19th-century clock, here is an explanation. Francis I (1494-1547) used the crowned salamander as a legendary symbol of the power of the Kingdom of France. This animal feeds on flames and can regenerate itself. Francis I adopted this emblem from his father, Charles of Orléans. The salamander as a royal symbol would later reappear during the reign of Louis-Philippe, who was Duke of Orléans before ascending the throne in 1830. A salamander on a clock could therefore also refer to "eternity," to "beyond time," since the animal is believed to be able to regenerate after injuries

Dealer

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and survive fire, or at least that was the prevailing belief.