



Drop-front Secretary Desk, Southern Germany, Circa 1760, Walnut Veneer, Central Locking Mechanism



5 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Wood marquetry

Width : 128cm

Height : 201cm

Depth : 70 cm

Description

A Baroque tabernacle-shaped writing cabinet with a glazed compartment, Southern Germany, circa 1755-1765. This exceptionally crafted, three-part writing cabinet possesses rare iconographic and functional value. Its commode-like base, resting on flattened ball feet, displays the characteristic form of South German Baroque furniture, with a concave-convex curved front and three wide drawers. The rich walnut veneer is enhanced with geometric marquetry and fine inlays of maple and plum wood motifs--a typical feature of high-quality South German furniture of the mid-18th century. Above is the writing compartment, fitted with a slanted drop-front and complemented by a sliding writing surface--a rare practical detail that testifies to refined use in a bourgeois court setting. The

Dealer

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tabernacle-shaped top, designed according to a unique architectural style, is exceptionally rare: at its center is a glazed compartment with a mirrored back, flanked by two perfectly symmetrical blocks of drawers. These unusual cubic and rectangular drawers lend the piece an almost architectural austerity. The main feature is a curved pediment adorned with a sunburst veneer, whose iconography evokes the sacred (light, Eucharist) and suggests that the cabinet was originally used to display a devotional object, probably a monstrance. The combination of a prestigious desk and a tabernacle with sacred connotations makes this object a rare example of the fusion of secular and religious furniture art in the South German Baroque. Materials: walnut veneer on a softwood frame, various precious woods. Provenance: southern Germany, probably Franconia (Bamberg).