



Large Amsterdam Longcase Clock Circa 1730 H. Rasteur



13 500 EUR

Signature : H. Rasteur

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Walnut

Width : 66 cm

Height : 276 cm

Depth : 35 cm

Description

Period and attribution

This imposing longcase clock belongs to the prestigious Dutch "Amsterdam" type (staande klok), produced in the early 18th century, during the golden age of domestic horology in the Dutch Republic. The dial bears the name H. Rasteur, Amsterdam, linking it to a workshop active in this major horological center.

Typology: the Amsterdam clock

Amsterdam clocks are distinguished by their monumental proportions, elegant curved cases, and richly decorated, highly functional dials. These clocks are particularly sought after for their complex mechanisms, animated elements, and finely veneered cases, reflecting the influence of late Baroque taste and international artistic

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Case and materials

The case, of impressive height (276 cm), is veneered in walnut on a solid wood carcass. The surfaces display carefully matched burr walnut veneers arranged symmetrically, enhancing the sculptural curves of the form.

Fine marquetry stringing frames the panels, while the central door features a finely chased and gilt bronze mount depicting an allegorical figure accompanied by scientific instruments (armillary sphere, tools), symbolizing knowledge and the sciences--a recurring theme in high-quality Dutch clocks.

The base rests on carved paw feet, reinforcing the monumentality of the piece.

Carved decoration and cresting

The hood is richly carved with openwork foliage and scrolling motifs. It is surmounted by a striking sculptural group:

Central Atlas figure supporting a celestial globe
Two flanking winged figures (allegorical genii), holding attributes such as a trumpet, likely symbolizing Fame or Knowledge

Such crest figures are characteristic of high-end Dutch longcase clocks and add strong symbolic and visual presence.

Dial and functions

The large brass dial is particularly elaborate:
Silvered chapter ring with Roman numerals and outer minute track

Engraved gilt center with scrolling ornament

Two subsidiary apertures showing month (Augustus) and day (Sondag), each illustrated with figural scenes

Animated upper arch panel with a painted automaton scene

Moon phase indication in the arch

Date aperture at the lower center

Painted pastoral scene in the lower dial area, depicting lively figures in a landscape, in the

tradition of Dutch genre painting

This complex dial reflects both technical mastery and refined artistic sensibility.

Movement

The brass movement is weight-driven with anchor escapement, striking the hours (and likely half-hours) on a bell. The long pendulum ensures accurate timekeeping. The presence of auxiliary indications confirms a calendar and astronomical complication system.

Condition

The clock is preserved in very good overall condition, retaining its original case, sculptural elements, and gilt mounts. The dial retains its original gilding and painted decorations. The movement appears complete. Minor wear consistent with age.

Conclusion

This Amsterdam longcase clock is a fine example of early 18th-century Dutch horology. Combining imposing scale, rich decoration, and mechanical sophistication, it represents both a functional timepiece and a statement of status and intellectual culture.

Dimensions:

height - 275 cm width - 66 cm depth - 35 cm