



French Gilt Travel Alarm Clock (1880-1890)



350 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 15,00cm

Description

This finely decorated travel clock is a magnificent example of 19th-century craftsmanship during the Belle Époque. The case is made entirely of richly cast and gilded bronze, adorned with a sumptuous decoration of scrolls, floral motifs and rocaille elements, characteristic of the French neo-styles that appeared at the end of the 19th century. The front is dominated by a dial adorned with classical Roman numerals. The central part of the dial is particularly striking: it is covered with an extremely fine guilloché pattern, which allows the light to play beautifully. The openworked hands reinforce the refined character of this timepiece. The clock is topped by an elegantly shaped molded handle and rests on a wide, profiled base that harmoniously extends the graceful decoration of the case. Travel clocks initially flourished in

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the early 19th century, responding to the need of officers and well-to-do travelers for a reliable, portable timepiece. While the first models were often sober, they evolved during the second half of the century to become veritable pieces of pageantry. This particular example, with its sumptuous decoration, was intended more to adorn a desk or mantelpiece than to withstand the hazards of a carriage ride.