



Orologio "a Scappatoio" With Placa In Porcellana Dipinta Refiguring The Duchessa Di Berry



25 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Description

"Escapement" clock with a painted porcelain plaque depicting the Duchess of Berry, ca. 1829. Of French origin, made of gilded bronze and painted porcelain. (Published in the book "Naples 1836 - The Queen Mother's Rooms" by De Luca Editori d'Arte. In 1831 (ASN, Royal Administrative Office, Inv. III, Envelope 88), the Queen Mother, with the consent of her royal son, removed a series of furnishings and objects from the Royal Palace and the Royal Palaces of Portici and Capodimonte to furnish her new residence. Among the many objects, from the Music Room in the Royal Palace was removed "a gilded bronze table clock with music below, featuring four arias, located in the pedestal; on the front of said clock, above the enameled porcelain, is the portrait of H.R.H. the Duchess of Berry" (p. 9)

Dealer

Antichità Goglia

furnitures, sculptures, paintings, pendulum clock

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The same clock is described in the 1848 Inventory (p. 284v) as a "gilded bronze table clock with a porcelain figure on the front, with an escapement time indicator, a crystal bell, and music in the base, 60 ducats," and is proudly displayed in the Gallery on the ground floor of Villa della Regina, in the rooms leading up to the so-called Museum.

Maria Carolina of Bourbon-Naples, born in 1798, Duchess of Berry from 1816, was the daughter from the first marriage of Isabella's royal consort, born of his marriage to Archduchess Maria Clementina of Austria, who died young. Her relationship with her stepmother Isabella was sparse but cordial, so much so that in her drawing room--known as the "Portrait Room"--there was a large portrait of the Duchess and one of her son, the Duke of Bordeaux, known as the "miracle child" for having been born just a few months after the death of his father, who was assassinated in 1820.

The two ladies met for the first time in 1829 during the Neapolitan couple's trip to Spain for the wedding of their daughter Maria Cristina. On his way through France, Francis I was able to see his eldest daughter again in Grenoble and then meet her once more in Paris, where he stayed for a long time with his wife upon returning from Madrid. On this occasion, many gifts were exchanged, and we like to suppose that this watch was among them. Likewise, we may suppose that the "glorious" portrait of the Duchess, crowned with roses by a group of cherubs--her having adventurously given birth to the heir to the French throne had made her a Bourbon legend --may have its precedent in that series of small-format, graceful portraits of the young Bourbons of France and Spain and of the Orléans, created by Alexandre Dubois Drahonnet precisely between 1828 and 1829, and partly preserved at Capodimonte, in which Maria Carolina herself also appears.

Period: 19th century; Provenance: France; Dimensions: Height: 59 cm; Width: 30 cm; Depth: 13.5 cm. Condition: Excellent condition; Documentation: Certificate of

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