



Clock Atypical Clock Featuring Sphinxes



1 100 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Bronze

Width : 19 cm

Height : 35 cm

Depth : 11 cm

Description

This remarkable clock, crafted from gilt and patinated bronze during the Napoleon III period (circa 1860), features a highly original composition inspired by 19th-century animalier and decorative themes.

Its structure is organized around a cylindrical drum representing the stylized body of a fantastical quadruped; it rests elegantly on four long, powerful feline legs that terminate in large, finely chased claws. The cylinder--rhythmically patterned with longitudinal fluting that alternates between polished surfaces, beaded borders, and engine-turned bands--bears a large circular dial

Dealer

Clock Prestige

Clockmaker specialised in 18th & 19th Century antique clocks and objects.

Mobile : 06-86-90-03-27

Lyon 69003

on its front,
framed by a bezel featuring a double row of
beads. The white enamel
dial displays an elegant "railway" minute track
with fine markings,
while the hours are indicated by large blue
Roman numerals set within
Rococo-style cartouches, delicately embellished
with gilt arabesques.
The openwork gilt-bronze hands, intricately cut in
the Louis XV style,
meet at a finely chased central rosette. The dial is
signed
"Gérard Fils à Nancy," attesting to its
provenance.

The top of the drum is surmounted by a square
platform supporting a
spectacular gilt-bronze floral arrangement. A
wide corolla of open
leaves cradles a bouquet of full blooms, buds, and
chased foliage. This
substantial naturalistic ornament adds verticality
and refinement to
the piece, while enhancing the composition's
sense of luxury.

The clock rests on a rectangular, stepped base of
patinated bronze; its
three visible sides are adorned with gilt-bronze
mounts of exceptional
chasing quality. The front features a symmetrical
design centered on an
antique vase from which a palmette emerges,
flanked by two winged
female sphinxes crouching face-to-face in a
hieratic pose. Their female
torsos, outspread wings, and leonine bodies are
linked by a harmonious
tangle of acanthus scrolls and leafy volutes,
creating a perfectly
balanced composition inspired by the classical
repertoire revived in
the 19th century. The side panels feature an

antique amphora framed by
sweeping acanthus scrolls that form an elegant
openwork pattern, while
a finely chased foliate frieze runs along the base
of the plinth. The
entire piece rests on a molded, patinated bronze
plinth, embellished
with a gilded relief frieze and four flattened,
circular gilded bronze
feet, ensuring stability while providing a highly
refined finish.

With its unusual architecture, the sophisticated
combination of gilded
and patinated bronze, the richness of its
naturalistic and mythological
ornamentation, and the exceptional finesse of its
chasing, this clock
stands as a remarkable example of decorative
metalwork from the
Napoleon III period (circa 1860).

Original mechanism intact and unmodified.
Strikes the hours and
half-hours on an antique bell with a clear,
authentic tone.