



Musical Sewing Box In The Shape Of A Miniature Spinet, Made In France, Circa 1820.



1 600 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Wood marquetry

Description

A charming musical sewing box made in France, crafted around 1820 and designed in the form of a miniature spinet, or scaled-down piano. This type of object reflects the taste of the early decades of the 19th century for decorative items combining cabinetmaking, mechanics, and the decorative arts, where ingenious design is paired with high-quality materials. The box is made of mahogany veneer and accented with fine strips of light-colored wood. The lid is adorned with a scaled-down keyboard composed of light and dark keys, faithfully evoking that of a spinet. The piece rests on four tapered legs of blackened wood, and the front is adorned with a lock plate. Opening the lid reveals a mirror covering the entire inner surface of the lid. The main compartment is fitted out as a genuine sewing kit.

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Two side compartments, closed by lids, are entirely lined with purple velvet embroidered with silver thread, forming delicate scrollwork and floral motifs. In the center is a removable tray that holds the various accessories. The kit retains much of its original contents: scissors, a thimble, a needle holder, an awl, tweezers, a cut-glass vial, and four mother-of-pearl spools for thread. The accessories are made of silver or silver-plated metal, depending on the piece. The set presents a particularly harmonious appearance, characteristic of the refined sewing kits of the first quarter of the 19th century. Concealed beneath the removable tray is a mechanical music box. The mechanism is intact, complete with its winding key, and remains in working order. Once wound, it plays several tunes, adding to this box all the charm of mechanical objects produced in the early 19th century. With its ingenious design--combining a sewing kit, a mirror, and a music box in a single object--this case exemplifies the refinement of French craftsmanship from this period. Intended to be displayed in a parlor or boudoir as much as to be used, it stands today as a particularly captivating testament to the art of living during the Restoration. Condition: in good overall condition. The music box is in working order. The sewing kit retains most of its original accessories. One of the four mother-of-pearl spools is damaged, though its fragments remain in their compartment. A pair of scissors is not part of the original set. The set shows slight signs of wear consistent with its age. Dimensions: Height: 16 cm Width: 30 cm Depth: 17 cm