



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Domed Travel Trunk In Leather, Wood And Brass, French, Circa 1900



1 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Leather

Width : 81

Height : 70

Depth : 52

Description

The domed travel trunk -- the malle bombée -- is one of the most eloquent artefacts of the Belle Époque era of travel. Before the standardisation of railway luggage and the age of the Pullman car, when the wealthy traveller moved by private carriage or post-chaise, trunks were designed with domed lids to shed rainwater and prevent accumulation of weight from above. The dome was a practical solution to the conditions of outdoor carriage travel; but it was also, by the early twentieth century, a form that had outlasted its immediate function and persisted by virtue of its beauty. A domed trunk of this period, in leather, wood, and brass, is thus a piece that carries the memory of a more adventurous mode of travel into the domestic interior -- an object that speaks, in its very silhouette, of distance and

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departure. This example, measuring 81 cm in width, 52 cm in depth, and 70 cm in height, is of a substantial size suited to extended journeys. The construction in leather over a wooden frame, reinforced and ornamented with brass fittings -- corner protectors, clasps, lock plate, hinges -- represents the standard of quality that distinguished a superior French trunk from the utilitarian versions intended for more modest purposes. The leather, developed over more than a century to a deep and even patina, and the brass, mellowed to the golden warmth of aged metal, together create a surface of considerable tactile and visual richness. The domed lid, rising above the body of the trunk, gives the piece its characteristic silhouette and its air of perpetual anticipation. Domed trunks from the turn of the twentieth century have found a secure place in the contemporary interior, valued both as decorative objects and for the storage they continue to provide with distinction. As a coffee table, a plinth for a lamp, or simply a presence in an entrance hall or bedroom, a leather domed trunk of this period brings the romance of grand travel into the domestic setting without sacrifice of utility. The combination of leather, wood, and brass -- three materials that all age beautifully and complement each other in tone -- ensures natural integration into a wide range of interior registers, from the maximalist to the quietly considered. A thoroughly desirable object of enduring character.