



Flat Louis XVI-style Desk. Joseph-emmanuel Zwiener Model. France, Paris,

70 000 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Width : 115

Height : 75

Depth : 65

Description

An elegant flat-topped desk made in Paris during the last quarter of the 19th century, representing a remarkable example of high-quality Parisian furniture from the Belle Époque period, designed in the tradition of the Louis XVI revival style. The piece exemplifies the characteristics of fine French cabinetmaking from the Napoleon III period, when master cabinetmakers drew inspiration from the refined designs of 18th-century royal furniture. The body of the piece is crafted from mahogany with carefully selected veneer and adorned with a rich set of gilded bronze (ormolu) mounts. The frieze is decorated with an elegant composition of garlands, ribbons, and plant motifs executed in deep chiseling and finished by hand. The central portion of the front band is adorned with a

Dealer

Maison Antiquon

Fine Art & Antiques

Mobile : +33 6 30 17 47 17

Rue de France 48

Nice 06000

circular medallion of blue-and-white jasperware-style porcelain, crafted in the spirit of the English Wedgwood factory and depicting an allegorical ancient scene in relief. The corners of the desk are decorated with expressive mascarons depicting female heads with flowing hair adorned with ribbons, characteristic of the decorative bronze sculpture produced by high-end Parisian workshops. Garlands extend from the mascarons and connect the corners to the central section of the frieze, forming a harmonious decorative composition. The fluted legs are adorned with long bronze appliqués featuring plant motifs and terminate in elegant spurs. The design of the legs draws directly on furniture models from the Louis XVI period. The desk features a concealed mechanism that allows the central drawer to be opened using a push-to-open system. Such design solutions are characteristic of furniture from high-end Parisian workshops of the late 19th century. The tabletop is crafted from polished onyx in a warm honey-yellow hue with natural veins, which enhances the piece's decorative appeal and underscores its prestigious character. Engraved assembly marks, notably the letters "ZN," appear on the reverse side of the bronze elements. Such assembly marks were widely used in Parisian bronze workshops during the second half of the 19th century to identify components during furniture assembly and to adjust decorative pieces. These assembly marks are frequently found on furniture from the leading Parisian high-end cabinetmaking houses, including on works attributed to the workshop of Joseph-Emmanuel Zwiener. The stylistic characteristics of the bronze decoration, the composition of the frieze with a porcelain medallion, the type of mascarons and garlands, the quality of the chiseling, the level of craftsmanship in the decorative bronze sculpture, as well as the character of the veneer and the piece's structural features, allow us to confidently attribute this piece to the workshop of Joseph-Emmanuel Zwiener, one of the most

important Parisian cabinetmakers of the Belle
Époque era, whose works were distinguished by
their luxurious craftsmanship and high artistic
refinement. Materials: Mahogany, gilded bronze
(ormolu), onyx, jasperware
porcelain. Dimensions: Height 75 cm. Width 115
cm. Depth 65 cm. Condition: Very good original
condition. Slight signs of age. Even gilding;
well-preserved bronze decoration. The
mechanism is in working order. Provenance:
Private collection. ID-ANTQ-16388