Empire-style Inkstand

1 200 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Marble

Width : 39 cm

Height : 18 cm

Depth : 18 cm

Description

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magnificent
Empire-style inkstand, crafted during the Second Empire, circa 1860,
distinguished by its imposing proportions, the nobility of its
materials and the richness of its finely chased and gilt-bronze
ornamentation. Its majestic architectural design combines a substantial
sea-green marble platform, with striking contrasting veining, and a
sumptuous arrangement of gilt bronzes, whose luminous finish elegantly
accentuates the rigorously balanced composition. Inspired by the

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decorative vocabulary of the Imperial period, this prestigious piece reflects the nineteenth-century taste for monumental desk accessories, combining functionality, refinement and the representation of power.

Resting on gilt-bronze feet, the rectangular sea-green marble platform features edges highlighted by a moulded frieze in chased bronze, while its sides are adorned with rich symmetrical mounts decorated with palmettes, scrolling foliage and rosettes. At the centre of the upper surface, a raised pedestal, also in marble, supports a sculptural composition dominated by a bowl embellished with raised floral decoration. It stands on a finely fluted foot and is flanked by two swans with outstretched wings, their plumage meticulously chased. At either end of the platform, two circular gilt-bronze inkwells are fitted with domed lids topped by pinecone-shaped finials, concealing their inner glass receptacles. Their gadrooned bodies, beaded borders and ornamented bases harmonise with the decorative motifs of the platform, creating an ensemble of remarkable aesthetic coherence.

The striking contrast between the deep green of the veined marble and the luminous gilding gives this inkstand an exceptional decorative presence. The interplay of volumes, the superimposition of levels and the symmetry of the composition create an architectural silhouette that is both powerful and elegant. The abundance of sculpted

details, from the swans
with outstretched wings to the floral garlands,
gadrooning and finely
chased friezes, reveals particularly meticulous
workmanship. Far more
than a simple desk accessory, this piece is a true
object of prestige,
intended to enhance a study, library or
distinguished interior. Its
generous proportions, noble materials and richly
ornamented decoration
make it a particularly appealing collector's piece
for enthusiasts of
gilt bronzes and decorative arts of the Second
Empire.