France, 18th Century, Louis XV-style Boureau Plat



16 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 162

Height : 74

Depth : 82

Description

France, 18th centuryLouis XV Bureau PlatWood and bronze, 74 x 162 x 82 cmThe Bureau Plat, which originated in France during the 18th century, best embodies the spirit of the Louis XV style, which in the middle of the century transformed the piece of furniture from a simple utilitarian object into a sculpture to be lived in. The desk presented here rests on four cabriole legs, with a soft and sinuous profile, which taper downward and end in gilded bronze feet featuring rocaille motifs. The rectangular top is upholstered in reddish-brown leather with fine gold fillet work and is framed by a chiseled bronze border featuring a floral motif, with volute-shaped corner pieces protecting the edges. Beneath the top are three drawers with undulating profiles, decorated with inlays of exotic woods, accentuated by thin,

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light-colored fillets that trace their outlines. The gilded bronze handles, featuring leaves and asymmetrical scrolls, are accompanied by lock plates that blend seamlessly into the design. The sides and corners of the legs are also embellished with high-quality gilded bronze appliqués, which emphasize the piece's structure.The Louis XV style, which developed between 1723 and 1774, rejected the geometric rigidity of the previous century in favor of curved lines, asymmetry, and lightness. In writing desks, this approach results in a rare balance between functionality and aesthetic pleasure: the cabinetmaking craftsmanship, featuring veneers and inlays of various woods, combines with the art of the bronze smith, creating surfaces rich in reflections and with a striking visual impact. The bureau plat, designed to be admired from every angle, perfectly embodies this ambition. It is no surprise that the finest examples are now housed in major institutions: from the Metropolitan Museum in New York to the Jacquemart-André Museum in Paris, from the Palace of Versailles to the personal desk of the President of the Republic at the Quirinal Palace--a testament to a charm that transcends the centuries.