Clock With Ram's Heads And Paris Porcelain



1 300 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Bronze

Width : 40 cm

Height : 46 cm

Depth : 18 cm

Description

ORDERING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OUR WEBSITEThis remarkable clock, crafted from finely chased and gilt bronze
during the Napoleon III period (circa 1860), is distinguished by its
monumental and perfectly symmetrical architecture. It elegantly blends
Louis XVI and Renaissance decorative styles, reflecting the eclectic
taste characteristic of the Second Empire. Its rich ornamentation,
enhanced by delicate Paris porcelain plaques, demonstrates an
exceptional level of craftsmanship in both the quality of the chasing
and the finesse of the painting.

Dealer

Clock Prestige

Clockmaker specialised in 18th & 19th Century antique clocks and objects.

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Lyon 69003

At the summit rises a substantial gadrooned urn, resting on a circular pedestal foot. The bowl is adorned with a water-leaf frieze and holds an abundant gilt-bronze floral arrangement featuring full-blown roses, buds, foliage, and clusters of berries. This urn sits upon a truncated conical base with sloping sides, encircled at the top by an elegant gallery featuring dentil and bead moldings. The front face depicts a charming winged putto reclining amidst flowers, rendered with remarkable painterly finesse.

The circular dial is set within a gilt-bronze bezel accented by a beaded frieze. It features elegant Paris porcelain decoration against a celestial blue background. Twelve white enamel cartouches display gilt Roman numerals, separated by delicate, stylized gilt floral motifs. At the center of the dial, a delightful painted scene unfolds, depicting Cupid amidst a floral arrangement, accompanied by a dove and the attributes of Love. The lower section of the design features a tambourine, a flower-adorned hat, ribbons, and polychrome flowers, lending a gentle quality to the whole. Elegant openwork gilt-bronze hands harmoniously complete this refined composition. Beneath the dial sit two trapezoidal Paris porcelain plaques, decorated with hand-painted polychrome floral bouquets on a white ground--framed by a gilt line and a broad *bleu céleste* (sky-blue) background--creating a pleasing transition to the

base. Flanking
the central body are bold, scrolling volutes
reminiscent of
architectural consoles. They are embellished with
large, deeply veined
acanthus leaf sprays that sweep elegantly upward
toward the top
corners. The upper terminals are crowned by
spectacular, masterfully
sculpted ram's heads with sweeping, curled horns;
the quality of their
modeling perfectly exemplifies the craftsmanship
of Parisian
bronze-makers of the period.

The clock rests on a substantial, complexly
shaped base featuring
multiple projections and alternating inclined
planes, moldings, and
curved surfaces. At the center, a spectacular
Louis XVI-style bow with
wide, flowing ribbons serves as the primary
decorative motif. Suspended
from a central rosette, it allows two long swags of
drapery to fall,
ending in stylized tassels. The base is richly
adorned with numerous
Paris porcelain plaques painted with bouquets of
roses, peonies,
pansies, and wildflowers in shades of pink,
mauve, blue, and
yellow--each framed by gilt lines against a *bleu
céleste*
ground. Their symmetrical arrangement brings a
harmonious liveliness to
the entire façade.

The piece is lavishly decorated with a spectacular
gilt-bronze floral
garland spanning the full width of the base. Open
roses, buds, daisies,
wildflowers, and foliage intertwine naturally in a
remarkably dynamic
composition, showcasing exceptional chasing and

matte finishing. The
base moldings feature a succession of delicately
chased
friezes--including egg-and-dart, water leaves,
ribbons, beadwork,
and foliate motifs--that enhance the overall
decorative richness.
At the lower center, an imposing, deeply carved
fan-shaped acanthus
mount unfolds, visually balancing the
composition and emphasizing the
monumental quality of the base. The piece rests
on four elegant, turned
circular feet--adorned with gadrooning and
beaded
friezes--which ensure perfect stability while
maintaining a sense
of visual lightness.

The high-quality mechanical movement bears the
stamp of Japy
Frères--an iconic 19th-century French
clockmaking
firm--guaranteeing excellent precision and
craftsmanship that
meets the standards of the era's leading Parisian
houses.

With its extraordinarily rich ornamentation, finely
chased details,
high-quality gilding, abundance of hand-painted
Paris porcelain
plaques, and highly elaborate architecture, this
impressive clock
stands as a remarkable testament to the decorative
luxury of the Second
Empire (Napoleon III) period, perfectly
exemplifying the refined taste
of fine Parisian craftsmanship from the 1860s.

Original mechanism, intact and unmodified.
Strikes the hours and
half-hours on an antique bell with a clear,
authentic tone.