

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Mathieu Befort Jeune (1813 - 1880)

A Fine Louis XV Style Ebonised Bureau Plat

Circa: Circa 1870

80 x 155 x 85 cm (31 1/4 x 61 inches)

Ebonised Wood Gilt-Bronze

France

1870

The bronze mounts stamped to the reverse 'BF' and numbered '162' or '92'.

This striking ebonised and gilt-bronze mounted bureau plat is of exceptional quality with graceful proportions and fine gilt-bronze mounts.

The design is inspired by 18th century examples by the master ébéniste Andre Charles Boulle, such as the Bureau du président de Machault, and the Bureau des princes de Condé at Versailles.

The bureau is inlaid with brass arabesque and has finely modeled gilt-bronze masks depicting Poseidon to the sides and exceptional female masks heading the legs. The top has a tooled leather writing surface.

Literature:

Ledoux - Lebard, Denise. *Les Ébénistes du XIXe siècle*, Les Editions de L'Amateur, (Paris), 1984; pp. 48-50.

Artist description:

Mathieu Befort (Befort Jeune) (1813-1880) is recorded as having worked in Paris from 1836 until 1880.

He was descended from a family of renowned ébénistes and was the son of the renowned cabinetmaker Jean-Baptiste Befort, known as Befort Père, who was of Belgian origin and renowned for having supplied furniture for the apartments of the Duc d'Orléans.

Father and son are noted for their interpretations of furniture by André-Charles Boulle and the creation of vernis marin and porcelain mounted furniture, often in the manner of Riesener.

The firm received a medal at the 1844 Exposition de l'Industrie Française, and earned Befort a reputation for the high quality of his work. As a result he became a purveyor to Napoléon III and Empress Eugénie.

Makers Bibliography:

Ledoux-Lebard, Denise Les Ebénistes du XIX Siècle, Editions de l'Amateur, (Paris) 1984, pps. 48-50.