

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



In the Manner of ANDRE-CHARLES BOULLE (1642 - 1742)

A Louis XIV Style Tortoiseshell Clock and Barometer Set

Circa: Circa 1840

107 x 26 cm (42¹/₄ x 10¹/₄ inches)

Tortoiseshell Gilt-Bronze

France

1840

Each with a plaque bearing the signature 'Gaudron a Paris', serial no. '1854' and the barometer further signed 'Cazartelli selon Teoricelli'.

A Rare and Exceptional Louis XIV Style Gilt-Bronze Mounted Tortoiseshell Clock and Barometer Set, in the manner of *André-Charles Boulle*.

The model for this fine set almost definitely comes from the atelier of *André-Charles Boulle*, and after the work of Jean Berain and Gilles--Marie Oppenordt. In 1775, five similar examples were documented. Of these, one is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum collection in London (Reference O224261), and another is in the musée des Arts et Metiers in Paris (Reference 05611-0000).

Literature:

Ottomeyer, Hans and Proschel, Peter (1986), *Vergoldete Bronzen, Vol II*, Munich; p.48, fig. 1.5.2. Also, p.49, Fig. 1.5.4 for a related barometer.

Artist description:

André-Charles Boulle (d.1732), appointed 'Ebéniste, Ciseleur, Doreur et Sculpteur du Roi' in 1672, is among the greatest ébénistes of all time. His fame was such that his name has become synonymous with a whole generic furniture type.

In the first decades of the eighteenth century, while still exploiting the common practice of contrasting black ebony against the gold of gilded bronze and brass, silver-toned pewter and often red-coloured tortoiseshell in marquetry, Boulle introduced light, playful designs enlivened with small-scale, lacy designs of playful singeries, garlands of flowers and airy architectural fantasies. First popularised as a technique in his work for the French Court during the reign of Louis XIV, the style has since been associated with the most opulent and expensive designs.