

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Maison Millet (1853 - 1902)

An Unusual Louis XV Style Secretaire Pedestal

Circa: Circa 1880

Mahogany Gilt-Bronze

France

1880

Stamped to the reverse of the bronze mounts 'MB' for Maison Millet. Finish

An Unusual Louis XV Style Gilt-Bronze and Marquetry Inlaid Secretaire Pedestal by *Maison Millet*.

This elegant and unusual mahogany and marquetry inlaid pedestal is of bombé shape with fine gilt-bronze foliate mounts. The pedestal has a shaped breche d'Alep marble top above a front fitted with a series of drawers, each finely inlaid with floral marquetry. The dummy front to the second drawer opening to reveal a leather writing surface and a fitted interior. The sides of the pedestal are quarter veneered and the whole is put down on splayed legs with gilt bronze acanthus feet.

It is unusual to find a small secretaire of pedestal form and rare to find an example of such wonderful quality and by an important maker.

Artist description:

Established by Théodore Millet in 1853, the Maison Millet operated until 1902 from premises at 11, rue Jacques-Coeur, Paris, before relocating to 23, boulevard Beaumarchais.

Millet produced fine quality meubles de luxe, specialising in meubles et bronzes d'art, genre ancien et moderne, with an accent on the Louis XV and XVI styles. The firm's work covered a wide range of furniture, including authorised copies of eighteenth-century styles.

Millet won awards in Paris and London including a gold medal at the 1889 Paris Exposition Universelle, a Grand Prix in 1900 and three further diplômes d'honneur and four médailles d'or. In 1902 the firm was authorised by the director of the Palace of Versailles to replicate Marie-Antoinette's celebrated Grand cabinet à bijoux.

Maison Millet was an active client of François Linke.

Makers Bibliography:

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Ledoux - Lebard, Denise, Les ébénistes du XIXe Siècle, Editions de L'Amateur, (Paris); 1984, pp. 484-486.