

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



A Magnificent Régence / Louis XV Style Gilt-Bronze Mounted Ebonised Lacquer Bureau Plat

Circa: Circa 1870

82 x 188 x 103 cm (32¹/₄ x 74 inches)

gilt-bronze and ebonised lacquer

France

1870

A Magnificent Regence / Louis XV Style Gilt-Bronze Mounted Ebonised Lacquer Bureau Plat After the Model by Jacques Dubois.

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

The bureau has a rectangular leather lined top banded by gilt-bronze borders, above three drawers finely framed by gilt-bronze borders and inset with Japanned lacquer panels depicting landscape scenes. The bureau is raised on four cabriole legs each mounted with exuberant gilt-bronze chutes of rockwork, acanthus and foliate motifs which follow the outline of the leg to the feet.

The bureau is based on an important 18th century model by the Royal ébéniste Jaques Dubois and formerly in the possession of the Duc d' Orléans. The overall design, with graceful curves embellished in gilt-bronze and the incorporation of japanned lacquer panels, reflects the transition between the more reserved Regence style of the early eighteenth century and the whimsical and fluid influence of the rocaille that emerged under Louis XV.

The exceptional quality of the gilt-bronze mounts and the fine detail of the cabinet making suggests that

this bureau was made by one of the finest ébénistes of the day. It is illustrated by Christopher Payne in his book 'Paris Furniture: The Luxury Market of the 19th Century'; p. 135.

Jacques Dubois (1696-1763)

Jacques Dubois, came from a family of ébénistes and most likely learned the craft from his half-brother, Noël Gérard, an important cabinetmaker and dealer of the 1720s and 1730s. Dubois became a master in 1742 at the relatively late age of forty-eight.

He is particularly noted for his use of exuberant gilt-bronze mounts, which mark a transition between the Regence and later rocaille forms and the incorporation of Japanese and Chinese lacquer panels which were supplied by the marchand merciers.

Literature:

Alcouffe Daniel & Dion-Tenenbaum Anne. Lefébure Amaury. Le mobilier du musée du Louvre, Editions Faton, (Dijon), 1993; pp. 158-161, for an illustration of the model by Jaques Dubois.

Pradère Alexandre. Les ébénistes français de Louis XIV à la Révolution, Editions Le Chêne, (Paris), 1989; p. 169.

Payne, Christopher. Paris Furniture: The Luxury Market of the 19th Century, Editions Monelle Hayot (Saint-Remy-en-l'Eau), 2018; p. 155.