

# ADRIAN ALAN

*Fine Art & Antiques*



**Vachette Frères**

## **A Highly Unusual Louis XV Style Writing Desk and Cartonier**

Circa: Circa 1880

210 x 85 x 82 cm (82<sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches)

Gilt-Bronze

France

1880

The clock face signed 'BRINDEAU / A PARIS'. The lockplate signed 'VF Paris'.

A Highly Unusual Louis XV Style Gilt-Bronze Mounted Marquetry Writing Desk and Cartonier.

This unusual writing desk has a bombé shaped cartonier (an ornamental box for papers usually for placing on a desk), surmounted by a gilt-bronze putto and a cockerel. The top section is inset with a clock above eight tooled green leather fronted drawers with scroll handles, the shaped sides and back finely inlaid with marquetry panels. The lower section has a fall-front frieze drawer with leather writing surface, opening to two small interior drawers. It is supported by four cabriole legs with fine gilt-bronze acanthus mounts.

The distinctive shape and form of the cartonier bears close comparison to a Louis XV style bureau by Joseph-Emanuel Zwiener which also incorporates eight leather fronted drawers but is surmounted by a pair of gilt bronze putti and a hound. A further related bureau and cartonier by Boudet is illustrated by D. Ledoux-Lebard in her book 'Le Mobilier Francais du XIXe Siecle', p. 95.

### **Literature:**

Ledoux - Lebard, Denise. 'Les Ébénistes du XIXe siècle', Les Editions de L'Amateur, (Paris), 1984; p. 95.

Payne, Christopher. Paris Furniture: The Luxury Market of the 19th Century, Editions Monelle Hayot (Saint-Remy-en-l'Eau), 2018; p. 560.

### **Artist description:**

Founded in 1864 in Troyes as Bresson-Vachette, named after its founders, the company became Vachette Frères in 1865 and rapidly became one of the leading French locksmiths of the second half of the 19th century. With a commercial office in Paris and workshops in Troyes, and from 1870 in Sully-Flibeaucourt; Vachette supplied locks to many of the most important Parisian ébénistes of the period. Their locks from this time are marked with their famous stamp of 'V.F' and 'Paris' above crossed keys and can be found on some of the most important furniture created at the end of the 19th century.

Today, the mark 'Vachette' still exists as a subsidiary of STREMLER/JPM and LAPERCHE, under the holding of the Swedish group ASSA ABLOY.