

La Pendulerie



Stollenwerck - Saint-Germain

Rare Gilt Bronze Rococo Antique Desk Clock, Louis XV period

Circa: 1750

Michel Stollenwerck

Case Attributed to Jean-Joseph de Saint-Germain

Paris, Louis XV period, circa 1750

Height 22.5cm; width 14 cm; depth 9 cm

The enamel dial indicates the Roman numeral hours and the Arabic five-minute intervals by means of two pierced gilt bronze hands. The magnificent waisted gilt bronze case is finely chased and gilt. The movement, with complications and striking by means of a pull cord, is signed "Stollenwerck à Paris"; it is housed in a case that is elaborately chased with rococo motifs on a matted ground, including wave motifs, asymmetrical foliage, flowers and scrolling, cabochons, shells, latticework centred by flowerets, C scrolls and ribbon-tied rods. The clock is raised upon four foliate-decorated scroll feet.

HISTORICAL

The design of the present clock, which is typical of the more subdued rococo style of the mid 18th century, stands out due to its well-balanced proportions and its exceptionally fine gilt bronze case. Its excellent quality suggests an attribution to Jean-Joseph de Saint-Germain, one of the most important Parisian bronze casters of the reign of Louis XV. Very few comparable clocks are known, one example

of which is illustrated in E. Niehüser, *Die französische Bronzeuhr, Eine Typologie der figürlichen Darstellungen*, Munich, 1997, p. 198, fig. 38. A second clock, today in a private collection, is pictured in Tardy, *La pendule française, 1er partie: De l'horloge gothique à la pendule Louis XV*, Paris, 1967, p. 166. One further similar example, with a dial signed "Etienne Le Noir à Paris", is illustrated in P. Kjellberg, *Encyclopédie de la pendule française du Moyen Age au XXe siècle*, Paris, 1997, p. 112, fig. F.

Artist description:

Michel Stollenwerck

Became a Master Clockmaker in Paris on April 14, 1746