



BUTCHOFF

LONDON

XVIII-XIX CENTURY
FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS



**A MAGNIFICENT CARTONNIER IN THE LOUIS XVI
MANNER AFTER THE ORIGINAL CREATION MADE
BY SIMON OEBEN**

Dimensions: H: 74 in / 188 cm | W:84 in / 212.5 cm | D: 41 in / 104 cm

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Constructed in kingwood and having extensive parquetry inlay, with well cast and extensive fire gilt bronze enhancements. The writing section of oblong form with re-entrant corners, housing three frieze drawers and with a tooled leather top; the shouldered tapering legs dressed with imbricated bronze mounts: lions masks at the ends: the frame having a guard bronze rail: the cartonier section housing five leather faced boxes, each side fitted with a small drawer, and a shelved cupboard, the whole dressed with guilloche bronze mounts; the swept superstructure is surmounted by a gilt bronze clock case, flanked by spandrels, having two patinated bronze putti over, emblematic of the



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arts. The circular white enamel dial with the hours delineated in Roman numerals, the clock movement of eight day duration, and striking the hours on a bell.

Paris, Circa 1880

Provenance:

We have in our possession documents, dated to 1997, which were found in the back of a drawer of the piece, addressed to the Chateau de Cieurac, recorded as a French Building of National Importance, and dating from the 13th Century, suggesting its possible origin.

Literature:

This chef d'oeuvre of French cabinet making by Simon Oeben was originally made for the Duc du Choiseul. A portrait of him seated at the desk was made by Van Blaerenberghe, and is in the V&A. The Desk itself may now be seen in the Chateau de Chantilly. The bureau plat was copied by notable 19th century ébénistes as Linke and Sormani.