

BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

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A FRENCH SECOND EMPIRE BRACKET CLOCK BY BERTHOUD OF PARIS IN THE MANNER OF ANDRE-CHARLES BOULLE

ANDRES-CHARLES BOULLE (1642 - 1732)

H: 49 in / 125 cm

Constructed in tortoiseshell and brass in premiere-partie Boulle work, the decoration drawing inspiration from Jean Berain, and adorned with bronze mounts;

Upon a bracket of inverted shaped bombé triangulated form, terminating in a berried finial, and dressed with a central cartouche of a stylised Louis XIV and flanked by grotesque masks, sits the clock, having an eight day movement striking on a bell; the serpentine form case, rising from bronze toupie feet having a kettle form base, dressed with caryatids, flambeau finials and surmounted by a bronze winged figure holding a trumpet, and proclaiming the hours; the foliate engraved brass face having the hours delineated by Roman numerals on enamel shields, and bearing the maker's name 'Berthoud a Paris'

France, Circa 1870

Literature:

Brian Loomes 'Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World; published 2006 by NAG Press, lists several Berthouds working in 19th Century Paris, to whom this clock's authorship might be ascribed.

Artist description:

Andre-Charles Boulle (1642-1732) was received as a Maître Ébéniste in 1666, quickly becoming known as 'the most skilful artisan in Paris', and was appointed 'Ébéniste du Roi' in 1672, when he became a resident of the Louvre Palace, and was granted the especial privilege of being permitted to work in both bronze and wood. Although not the inventor of the method of inlaying the combination of ebony, tortoiseshell and brass, his ability and creative ability in the medium became at once associated with the patrynomic, 'Boulle' and many of his masterpieces, which are represented in many museums and prestigious Royal collections throughout the world.