



**A BUREAU PLAT IN THE LOUIS XV MANNER BY
FRANÇOIS LINKE**

Dimensions: H: 30.5 in / 77 cm | W: 66 in / 167 cm | D: 37.5 in / 95 cm

9290



A Bureau Plat in the Louis XV Manner By François Linke,
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Of serpentine, kneehole form; constructed in kingwood, and dressed with very fine gilt bronze mounts designed by Léon Messagé; rising from cabriole legs dressed with bronze sabots, issuing foliate form mounts conjoining the 'C' scroll espagnolettes and the front and rear shaped framework; a central long drawer above the central kneehole, and two flanking deep drawers, all lockable with one containing a coffre fort, and dressed with gilt bronze handles; the platform having an outer gilt bronze guard rail, and an inset tooled leather writing surface. Signed by the maker on the lockplate "F. Linke Paris".

French, Circa 1890

Literature:

François Linke (1855-1946)

François Linke (1855-1946) is considered to be one of the finest ébénistes and bronziers of the 19th century at a time when the worldwide influence of French fashion was at its height. He moved from Pankraz, Bohemia where he completed his apprenticeship under the strictest of training, to Paris in 1875, setting up shop in 1881 in the faubourg Saint Antoine and later with a showroom in the Place Vendôme. He attracted a wealthy international clientele, appreciative of the excellence of his work.

Specialising in the style of the ancien régime and modifying the proportions of the eighteenth century to suit the smaller Parisian apartments, he was an exhibitor at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900, where he was a Gold Medal winner par excellence for his extraordinary and innovative display. His worldwide reputation as a master of high individualism and inventiveness earned him the highest distinction of France, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

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This model of bureau plat is well-documented in the Linke archives as index 132. First appearing in 1890, this writing table has the characteristic three-dimensionality associated with Linke's furniture and incorporates elaborate gilt bronze mounts designed by his sculptor Léon Messagé. Preparatory drawings by Messagé for this bureau plat survive in the Linke archives and allude to its final sculptural form.

Literature:

Payne, Christopher. François Linke, 1855-1946: The Belle Epoque of French Furniture. Woodbridge: Antique Collectors' Club, 2003 (illus. p. 84).