

A LOUIS XVI STYLE ORMOLU-MOUNTED
OCCASIONAL TABLE

Dimensions: H: 30 in / 76 cm | W: 23 in / 58.5 cm | D: 17 in / 43 cm

9978

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A Louis XVI Style Ormolu-Mounted Occasional Table

After the original by Jean-Henri Riesener
Today at the Louvre

Constructed from a striking flamed mahogany which has been quarter-veneered to showcase its beauty, extensively dressed with finely cast and hand-chased ormolu mounts retaining their original mercury fire gilding, the occasional table with a three-quarter galleried rectangular top, the frieze housing a central lockable drawer, centred by mounts of paired putti and helmeted faces of Minerva to the sides, the tapering legs headed by gilded floral swags, supported on rare lignum vitae rolling castors, and joined together by a shaped undertier.
French, circa 1850

Literature:

Interestingly, the distinctive key with its interlaced L's is a design introduced by Francois Linke, appropriately called the 'Louis XVI couronne royale.'

The quality of this exceptional table is evident from several features, including the use of quarter-veneering for the flamed mahogany, but also the detailed hand-chased treatment of the mounts. The unusual feature of lignum vitae for the rolling castors is a rarely seen feature in the 19th century. This incredibly dense and strong wood was used for castors by earlier masters such as Martin Carlin and Riesener in the 18th century.

The prototype of this table is Jean-Henri Riesener's example originally supplied in 1780 for Marie-Antoinette's cabinet intérieur at Versailles. In the 19th century's leading ébénistes re-issued this model, including François Linke (index no. 881) and E.-Guillaume-Edmond Lexcellent.