



**A FINE ORMOLU-MOUNTED BUREAU À GRADIN
BY MAISON MILLET**

Dimensions: H: 55 in / 139 cm | W: 45.5 in / 116 cm | D: 28.5 in / 72 cm

10730



A Fine Ormolu-Mounted Bureau à Gradin
In the Louis XV Style
By [Maison Millet](#) of Paris

Constructed from bois satiné and inlaid with kingwood parquetry, designed in the Rococo style popular during the reign of [Louis XV](#), with curved and bombé surfaces throughout beautifully embellished with cast, hand-chased fire gilt bronze mounts, the writing desk of so-called kidney form, standing on slender cabriole legs with foliate cast sabots and a pair of female espagnolettes adorning the front legs, the curved back and sides of the desks with panels of trellis parquetry and mounted with scrolled acanthus ormolu ornaments, repeated on the shaped frieze enclosing the lockable drawers below the leather pull-out writing slide, flanked by two ornate ormolu figural candelabra perched on the sides, the back having an arrangement of five drawers centred around a pigeon hole, below a clock face denoting the hours in Roman numerals and striking on the hours and half hours on a bell, surmounted by a herculean figure of a cherub wielding a sword, wearing a

helmet and seated on a lion pelt, a subject referred to as the 'enfant guerrier.' The reverse of some mounts marked 'MB' from the bronze master models.

French, circa 1890

Maison Millet exhibited a very similar Bureau à Gradin at the 1905 Paris Salon des industries du Mobilier.

Literature:

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C. Mestdagh & P. Lécoules, L'Ameublement d'Art Français, 1850-1900, Les Editions de L'Amateur, (Paris), 2010, Fig. 244, p. 212, illustrating a less elaborate version by Millet.

C. Payne, Paris Furniture - the luxury market of the 19th century, Éditions Monelle Hayot (Paris), 2018; p. 470, illustrating the model.