



## Jean Antoine Lépine

### Mahogany Lépine Regulator with Annual Calendar

Signed in enamel on the dial: "Lépine Hr de l'Impératrice" (Josephine de Beauharnais, Napoleon's first wife) Paris circa 1809.  
Also signed on the lower portion of the dial, below 6 o'clock, by the enameller Dubuisson.

Regulator with annual calendar, signs of the zodiac, hour, minutes, centre seconds, 30-day power reserve.

Mahogany case with inside plaque engraved:

"Souvenir Affectueux A Ma Chère Julia Poirer Née Bellanger, Vve Condu, 9 Août 1893".

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*Height app. 61.5 cm / Width 32.5 cm (base) / Depth 23.75 cm*

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Regulator with annual calendar and signs of the zodiac indicated by a blued steel hand, gilt brass hand for the hours and minutes with counterpoised sun hand for solar time, blued steel hand for the mean time, centre seconds, winding square between II and VIII, hidden by the bezel decorated with chased leaves. Large one-month going movement, going train with single barrel and two weights. The two rectangular brass weights, suspended on either side of the movement, supply the energy to the single barrel. Harrison's maintaining power, Graham dead-beat escapement mounted on the back plate, with jewelled pallets and bearings.

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### **Jean Antoine Lépine\_ (1720 - 1814)**

*Became master horologist in 1762. Named Horloger du Roi et du Garde Meuble de la Couronne, he delivered thirty-six clocks to the Maison royale. Lépine invented the watch calibre that bears his name, notable for the omission of the fusée (replaced by a toothed barrel) and the replacement of the upper plate and pillars by bridges. This made it possible to make flatter watches that were easier to take apart. He invented the virgule escapement, watch cases with invisible hinges, and a new repeating under-dial work and a system of keyless winding. He was the first to make watches with a setting and adjustment square on the movement side, and the first to make dials with Arabic numerals for the hours as well as for the minutes.*

*Lépine was the son-in-law of Charles-André Caron, watchmaker to the King.*

*Lépine retired in 1784 and left his business to his son-in-law Raguier.*