



Jean Louis Bouchet

Astronomic Skeleton Regulator

Constructed by Louis Bouchet, Horloger du Roi, Paris, circa 1781

Gilt bronze astronomic skeleton regulator with multiple complications, with remontoir, striking the hours and quarters. One-month power reserve, indication of the years, signs of the zodiac, hours, minutes and seconds, equation of time, days of the month and the week, annual calendar, phases of the moon, position of the sun on the horizon.

De Bachaumont mentions this clock in his "Mémoires Secrètes de l'histoire de la République des lettres en France 1762 jusqu'à nos jours", tome XVIII, p. 255. The entry for June 16 reads: "Lovers of fine mechanisms may admire an astronomic clock that is entirely pierced through, made by Mr Bouchet, watchmaker to the King, with a marble base, it may be placed on a mantle or a commode. It sounds the hours and the quarter hours, and has six dials and three cercles tournants."

Height 47 cm / Width 32 cm / Depth 20 cm

Jean Louis Bouchet_ (1737 – 1792)

Horloger du Roi and fournisseur du Garde Meuble, in charge of the maintenance of the clocks at the Château de Bellevue (residence of Mesdames Victoire and Adelaide) during the reign of Louis XVI.

Jean Louis Bouchet was a talented watchmaker, who seems never to have been extremely prosperous. Bouchet was one of the earliest to make skeleton clocks in France. In 1776, he made an astronomic skeleton clock with six dials for Louis XV.

In 1768, he furnished miniature movements with astronomic indications for an ivory clock presented to the King by M. de Fontanieux. From 1779 to 1781 he worked on a clock with six dials and three cercles tournants, described by Bachaumont.

Historical research / Jean-Dominique Augarde and Jean Nérée Ronfort - 2003

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