Mathieu Le Jeune

Oscillating Lyre Clock, gilt bronze and white marble

Paris, circa 1780

Dial signed at 12 MATHIEU LE JEUNE

The only known example of a lyre clock decorated with two rooster heads (symbol of France),
in gilt bronze and white Carrara marble.
Skeleton movement, 15-day power reserve, striking the hours and half hours, pin-wheel escapement.

Height 63 cm / Width 32 cm / Depth 16 cm

This oscillating lyre clock is the only example known to exist, decorated with two gilt bronze rooster heads (symbol of France) with a dial indicating the hours, minutes, seconds and days of the month in red. This type of clock is usually decorated with eagle heads.

The two branches of the lyre terminate in two rooster heads, with a garland of leaves and roses. A gadrooned vase fixed to the entablature, supports a floral bouquet. The main dial is in the rounded portion of the lyre, decorated with branches of holly, fixed to the base. The base is of white Carrara marble with gadrooned gilt bronze moulding, and a garland ornamented with gilt bronze tassels.

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*Mathieu le Jeune_*

Mathieu, Edme, known as Le Jeune (d. Paris, after 1806), the son of Claude, who was a gardener, and Jeanne Douine. He married Anne Richer.

Ouvrier libre (1757), he was received on September 9, 1768 by a decree relieving him of the requirement of apprenticeship.

His son Alexandre took over the business during the Empire, first in the rue Mazarine (1759), rue Matignon (1761), rue Saint Honoré near the Jacobins (1769), then near the rue des Fondeurs (1778), and last, across from the Oratoire (1800). He used cases by Delacroix, Héban and J.B. Osmond.

Mathieu Le Jeune a also made an important clock called "Vase à l'Etude et la Géographie" commissioned by Emperor Paul Ist in 1798 for his palace in Saint Petersburg.

This clock, in gilt bronze and green marble with a movement with cercles tournants, indicating the hours and minutes and a dial featuring astronomical indications, is today exhibited in the Grand Palais of the Kremlin in Moscow.

Image in high resolution available on the press area of our website www.fpjourne.com