



## Robert Robin

**Astronomic Clock having belonged to King Louis XVI.  
This was his favourite clock and stood in his room at Versailles.**

Paris 1782/1788

Main dial signed "Robin Horloger du Roi"; main dial and reverse of the second signed "Coteau".

An exceptional astronomic clock with two dials, full calendar, signs of the zodiac and phases of the moon. Standing on a gilt bronze and red griotte marble pedestal by François Rémond. The two figurines by Louis Simon Boizot, sculptor to the King. Movement by Robert Robin, Valet de chambre horloger ordinaire du Roi et de la Reine. The dial painted by Joseph Coteau.

---

*Height 70 cm / Width 64.5 cm*

---

An exceptional astronomical clock with full calendar and two dials, on a pedestal of red griotte marble, with a gilt bronze bas-relief depicting three children, resting on four gilt bronze sphinxes, flanked by two brown-patinated bronze figures. The one on the right, in classical robes, is an allegory of Geometry. In her right hand she holds a protractor and a gilt bronze tablet bearing equations and drawings demonstrating the function of the fusée.

To the left, a young man sculpted in patinated bronze is dressed in classical garments and appears to be listening to the figure of Geometry. He holds two gilt bronze parchment rolls in his right hand, while a gilt bronze sphere and manuscript lie at his feet.

The dial on the front indicates the age of the moon, the days of the week, the date, the signs of the zodiac, the solstices and the equinoxes. The phases of the moon appear in the centre of the main dial.

The ring dial on the back indicates the hours and half hours, painted in reverse so as to be legible when reflected in a mirror. The superb one-of-a-kind astronomic calendar is highly representative of the period, during which horologists, with the support of knowledgeable patrons of the arts, worked hand in hand with the finest artisans of the day to create time-keeping instruments that are at the same time exceptional works of art.

---

### **Robert Robin\_ (1741 – 1799)**

*Robert Robin was born in Chauny and trained in Noyon. A remarkable and creative engineer, Robin was one of a handful of great horologists of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. He was extremely ambitious, accumulating titles and commissions, and at one point attempting to change his name to the more aristocratic Robin de Beaumont.*

*In 1763, Robin acquired the royal warrant of Marchand Horloger privilégié du Roi, which he sold in 1765. He became master horologist in Paris on November 21, 1767 by decision of the King's Conseil d'Etat. In 1778 Robin presented two inventions to the Royal Academy of Sciences, including an astronomic clock with meridian.*

*In November 1778, he became Horloger du Duc de Chartres. After Louis XVI purchased his meridian clock, he took the title of Horloger du Roi. In 1783, he was named Valet de Chambre-Horloger du Roi due to the reversion of Charles-Athanase Pinon, but never exercised. On October 1, 1786, he received the commission of Valet de Chambre-Horloger ordinaire de la Reine, following the death of Vilbar. He also acquired the titles of Horloger Ordinaire de Monsieur after 1785, and Horloger des Menus Plaisirs du Roi after 1785. After the executions of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, he took the title Horloger de la République in 1794, then Horloger du Directoire in 1795.*