

# FRANK PARTRIDGE

## **A Louis XVI Ormolu-Mounted Marquetry Bureau Plat and its Cartonnier by Martin-Guillaume Cramer.**

*Circa 1770*

Bureau Plat: 44.5 x 22.5 x 22.5 high (113 x 57 x 57 )

Cartonnier: 11.5 x 22.5 x 47 high (29 x 57 x 120 )

*Veneered in rosewood and stained wood of hearts and diamonds intertwined, ornamentation ormolu; the bureau plat, having a rectangular top with a black Moroccan leather, the frieze having two drawers and two pull out sides also covering the same black Moroccan leather, stamped on each drawer M.G.CRAMER JME. The cartonnier having a white marble top, above a single inlaid drawer and four black Moroccan leather boxes. The lower part opening with doors on either side, supported by an arched base with ormolu feet; stamped M.G.CRAMER JME at the rear and under the drawer.*

### **Provenance:**

Vente Palais Galliera, Paris, 28 November 1972, lot 142.

Private collection in Belgium

### **Literature:**

Alexandre Pradère, *Les ébénistes français de Louis XIV à la Révolution*, Published by Chêne, 1989, p. 326, fig. 374.

### **Comparative literature:**

Véronique Goudot-Malherbe, "L'histoire fastueuse de l'Hôtel de la Marine", *L'Estampille - L'Objet d'Art*, no. 311, p. 71.

The inventory of Mathieu William Cramer workshop, drawn up after the death of his wife in 1783, gives a picture of a relatively large production at the time, since it contained no less than five premises. It describes more than two hundred pieces of furniture, in varying degrees of finish. The accounts show that Cramer resold some of the furniture made by his colleagues, including R.V.L.C., Petit, Roussel, Topino, Vassou, Ancellet, Canabas, Dautriche and Feuerstein. He originally came from an area north of the Rhine and moved to Paris where he worked as a free worker in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine, before being received in the Guild in 1771. A few years later, he acquired a workshop in the Rue du Bac and built up a business with private clients. In 1790 he was forced to close his business due to financial difficulties, even though he had a stock of merchandise with a value of 15,000 livres. He died in 1804.