

FRANK PARTRIDGE

A Late Louis XV Ormolu Mounted Marquetry Document Box In the Manner of Oeben

Circa 1760

18.5 x 14 x 5.5 in high (47 x 35 x 14 cm)

The hinged rectangular lid inlaid in tulipwood, amaranth and a floral spray within a cartouche. The sides with handles and on short fluted and acanthus feet.

The style of the marquetry inlay relates to the work of Jean-Francois Oeben, (d.1763), such as on a mechanical table with writing-slide with similar cartouche to the top which is illustrated in R. Stratmann – Döhler, Jean-Francois Oeben, Paris, 2002 p. 100.

Jean-François Oeben, (1715- 1763)

An influential French cabinetmaker noted for his outstanding marquetry and for his ingenious mechanical devices Oeben came to France at an unknown date and in 1751 entered the workshop of Charles-Joseph Boulle, a son of the famous cabinetmaker André-Charles Boulle, in the Louvre. He was soon patronised by the king's mistress Mme de Pompadour and in 1754 was appointed *ébéniste du roi* ("royal cabinetmaker"). Much of his work was done for the royal household. His royal warrant gave him the privilege of a workshop in the Gobelins factory, although he later moved to the Arsenal. His masterpiece is the *bureau du roi*, a desk for the king that he began in 1760 and was working on at the time of his death; it was finished by his younger associate, Jean-Henri Riesener, who also married his widow.