

GILLES JOUBERT

(, 1688 - , 1775)

DESK



Paris, Louis XV period, 1st half of 18th century

Material: oak frame and tender wood; amaranth veneer; gilt bronze; leather.

H. 74 cm - W. 163 cm - D. 80 cm (29 1/8 in - 64 1/8 in - 31 1/2 in)

MARKS AND INSCRIPTIONS:

1686 flanked by a fleur-de-lys underlined with the date 1752 inscribed in ink under the desk (inventory number of the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne) ; N M 947, inscribed in ink beneath the desk (inventory number of the château de Marly used after 1784) ; N Cs 947 / Commun / Gouverneur / N° 8 inscribed in ink on a rectangular label glued below the desk ; letters EC flanked with an oval enclosing three fleur-de-lys under a closed coronet, fire marked underneath the desk, used by the Garde-Meuble Royal during the Restauration (1815-1830), letters EC standing for Ecuries Royales of the rue de Chartres in Paris.

The desk rests on four console legs diagonally set and enhanced with corner mounts shaped as espagnolettes featuring women masks underlined with filets of pearls and flanked with acanthus volutes. They are linked at the bottom to ormolu sabots crowned with acanthus leaves. The delicately curved frieze encloses three front drawers, all three simulated at the back of the desk in the same manner, the central one flanked with a pair of chased clasps highlighted with gadrooned motifs.

The frame is entirely veneered with amaranth. Each drawer closes with an individual lock adorned with a small rococo asymmetrically festooned cartouche. Bronze masks enhance the small sides of the frieze. The serpentine top is lined with a gilt-tooled green leather inserted within a robust molded ormolu border with sumptuous chamfered corners.

