



A large solid oak cabinet, surmounted by a straight entablature, with characteristic frieze, architrave, and projecting cornice set with three lion's masks; the front with two doors decorated with fine rosewood, ebony, and ebonised marquetry, in a strict architectural format of scrolling foliage, flanked by half round pilasters with carved capitals – enclosing the cabinet with a single oak shelf – and each side, with rectangular panels set with moulded corniches, the lower front is set with two drawers each with original wooden handles; all seated on three original ball feet, restored and refinished.

CABINET DE LA ROUTTE MARINESQUE

Kussenkast.

Author

[Anonymous]

Publication date

c1670].

Publisher

Publication place

[The Netherlands,

Physical description

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Dimensions

2090 by 2400mm (82.25 by 94.5 inches).

Notes

A magnificent and elegant kussenkast, typical of the Dutch late seventeenth century style. The title-page of the French translation of Lucas Waghenaer's celebrated 'Spiegel der Zeevaerdt' - 'Thresorerie ou cabinet de la route marinesque' (1600), illustrates just such a cabinet for the display and safe-keeping of the most important atlases, and travel accounts: the perfect metaphor for Waghenaer's own maritime atlas, which was a pioneering synthesis of information gathered from manuscript charts, rutters, ships' logs, all of which he systematized for the first time, illustrated with informative and beautifully engraved charts.

"Waghenaer's work was a milestone in the development of West European navigation. His charts brought together the pictorial silhouettes that had been a standard feature of traditional rutters used by pilots, and combined these with updated coastal outlines. In addition, there were compass roses and lines of navigational direction, as well as soundings to help navigators make their way into ports and havens" (Schilder).

Bibliography

Schilder, 'Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica', Volume VII.

Provenance

Price: £40000

Inventory reference: 23919