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A monumental and very impressive French 19th century Louis XV st. inkwell by Francois Linke. This extraordinary collectors item is a collaboration of two masters of the period; Linke and Baccarat. The inkwell is raised parquetry of ebonized fruitwood base with exquisite and finely chased ormolu mounts and scrolled borders. Centered on front and back are large Rocaille design elements with rosettes and scrolls, similar mounts adorn each side. At each corner is an ormolu mount of a boy sitting with a book, amidst opulent foliate rosettes, scrolls and acanthus leaves; two with a pencil in their hands and the others seeming to read. Above is the mahogany insert with a central compartment. On each side are the removable finely cut Baccarat crystal inkwells with superbly chased ormolu lids with rosette finials and scrolls throughout. Highest quality of chasings and all original gilt.

François Linke (1855-1946) Renowned 19th Century Parisian Ébéniste. Linke created historical interpretations of Louis XV and Louis XVI styles. He displayed at the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900 where he received a gold medal for his exhibition. The Art Journal "Revue" described Linke's style as 'entièrement nouveaux'. His characteristic sculptural gilt mounts reflected the influence of marquetry genius André-Charles Boulle.





