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PALM BEACH

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A striking and important French 19th century Louis XVI st. tulipwood, kingwood and ormolu mounted 'D' shaped commode. The commode is raised by elongated inlaid topie shaped legs decorated by ormolu sabots with acanthus leaves. Above the moulded ormolu band are the two quarter veneered drawers Sans Traverse (without a crossbar) and elegantly designed with an outer tulipwood band and ormolu trim. Each drawer is decorated with fanciful ormolu pulls and a central keyhole escutcheons with masks. Above is the top drawer with a pierced richly chased ormolu band and floral intertwined design and central keyhole escutcheon. Directly above each leg is an inlay of a fluted design below a top ormolu acanthus leaf mount. All below the original sensational and unique purple, pink and gray marble top. Attributed to Paul Sormani.

This commode is based on the celebrated 18th century model by Jean-Francois Leleu (1729-1807), now conserved at the Petit Trianon at Versailles. It was placed there in 1867 following an exhibition organised at the request of Empress Eugénie in memory of Queen Marie-Antoinette. The commode was further exhibited in Paris in the retrospective part of the Exposition de L'Union centrale des arts décoratifs in 1882.

Paul Sormani (1817-1877) One of the most renowned 19th century French cabinet makers and Bronzier of the highest quality. Paul Sormani established his firm in 1847 at 7 Cimetiere Saint-Nicolas in Paris. Sormani participated in major international exhibitions of 1855, 1862 and 1867. Awarded a bronze medal in 1849 and a first-class medal in 1855. At the Universal Exhibition of 1867, his work has been described as "A quality of workmanship of the highest order".

Item #8730   H: 36 in L: 59 in D: 23 in   List Price: $39,500.00