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Cassettone or Bureau-Chest, Late 16th Century, Italian Renaissance, Walnut, Bambocci Carving, Lombardy

£36,000



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REF: 11856

Height: 104 cm (40.9")

Width: 148 cm (58.3")

Depth: 75 cm (29.5")

Description

EXCEPTIONAL MUSEUM QUALITY, ITALIAN, RENAISANCE WALNUT CASSETTONE WITH FITTED BUREAU IN THE UPPER PART & EXCEPTIONAL BAMBOCCI CARVING, LOMBARDY

This magnificent cassettone exudes the character and quality of the finest, late-Renaissance furniture. Late 16th century, Northern Italian furniture often had the sides, legs or angles, 'a Bambocci', incorporating carved figures which were unique sculptures in their own right. The putti on this cassettone are beautifully carved and of sculptural quality. Each angel has one arm raised to heaven, a poignant touch. Showing customary signs of wear from time, the lion's paw feet make a great statement. This cassettone was conceived to have visual impact through the quality of the carving, as well as being very practical with the writing compartment fitted in the top part. It has survived in very original condition with a few small repairs and losses, and the color and patina are warm and lustrous. This cassettone was illustrated in one of the seminal works on Lombardy furniture in the 1969 and has been in two renowned collections.

The hinged top in two sections faced with a solid moulded edge. The front part has a fall front and opens to reveal a writing compartment. The fall front retains its original lock and is concealed with a false drawer which is above three drawers. All with moulded panels, escutcheons and retaining the original iron handles. The front ends have exceptional, bambocci, carved putti raising their arms to heaven above trailing foliage. Standing on magnificent lion's-head carved feet. The sides are panelled. Exceptional original colour and patina.

Provenance: Collection Private Azzate The Collection of Sandro and Lidia Orsi, Ca' Mera, Varese. Regarded as one of the most beautiful homes in Lombardy, Ca' Mera, the country house of Sandro and Lidia Orsi was filled with beautiful objects from many different epochs. A renowned antiquarian from Milan, over his lifetime Sandro and his wife Lidia revived the Renaissance and Baroque character of the house and instilled their own unique vision into the interiors, which culminated with the creation of a Kunst - or Wunderkammer. "I have never seen such an example of poetical taste", Sir John Pope-Hennessy said after visiting the Orsi house.

Literature: Illustrated in C. Alberici, Il Mobile Lombardo, Milan, 1969, p. 45. A Gonzalez-Palacois, Il mobile in Liguria, Genova, 1996 illustrates related pieces

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