

# RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



## **Significant Writing Cabinet Cantourgen**

Circa: Circa 1760

Möbel, Schrank, Holz, Furniture, cupboard, wood,

213 x 120 cm

83.8582677165354 x 83.8582677165354"

Circa 1760

213 x 120 x 75 cm (83<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches)

Walnut veneer on softwood, engraved and fire-shaded boxwood, ebony

The upper section, with a molded pediment above the parquet-decorated doors, encloses a pine-lined interior with two shelves, all between chamfered supports. Inside are six small drawers. The lower

section consists of a curved chest of drawers with two deep drawers and a molded apron on sturdy cabriole legs. Excellent patina.

The term "Cantourgen" is derived from the term "Cantor" or "Cantour" for office, which was common in the Mainz-speaking area at the time. The diminutive form, in turn, with the addition of "gen" for "chen," gave rise to the term "cantourgen," which means "small office." The characteristic stylistic features of a Mainz writing cabinet are the corner pilasters, beginning in the volute feet and extending the entire height of the cabinet, with volute handles and crowning carved rocaille capitals. Many of the so-called cantourgene cabinets were created as masterpieces and are considered the pinnacle of German cabinetmaking.

**Exhibition:**

Mainz State Museum

**Literature:**

Heinrich Kreisel/Georg Himmelheber, *The Art of German Furniture*, Vol. III, Munich 1973, Plates 1031 and 1033

*Contributions to the History of the City of Mainz*, Vol. 14, Ed. Fritz Arens, 1955, Plates 58 and 59