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Empire Mahogany Sofa or Canapé

£5,900

Empire Mahogany Sofa or Canapé in the style of Henri Jacob, the angular, arced back with brass lozenge mount flanked by brass moulded panels over a padded back, the square arms with cylinder caps also mounted with lozenges within brass moulded panels. The loose-cushioned over a panelled frieze raised on conforming, brass mounted square legs.

SKU: N/A
Depth: 72 cm (28.5 inches)
Feet Height: 48 cm (19 inches)
Height: 103 cm
Width: 157 cm
Year: Probably St. Petersburg. Circa. 1805

This style of seat furniture said to be in the 'Jacob' style popularized by the St. Petersburg workshops can be compared with a related set of chairs in the Secretary's room at Pavlovsk, see, *Pavlovsk, Palace & Park,* Leningrad, 1974, pl. 52. Another related set of chairs in the Family Sitting Room is illustrated, *op. cit.* pl. 187. An almost identical settee was at Tsarskoe Selo, illustrated G. Loukomski, *The Palaces of Tsarskoe Selo*, London, 1987, p. 81.

Henri Jacob (1753-1824) cousin of the celebrated Georges Jacob, who was commissioned by the future Paul I to delivered a large amount of furniture to Pavlovsk in 1783, shaping the style of Russian Neoclassical furniture. The two gilt-bronze globular finials evoke furniture in France after designs by the painter David in the 1790s. He proved a huge influence on the Russia-based ébéniste, Christain Meyer, who could well have produced to offered piece in his workshop.

A settee of comparable design and decoration is in the Pavlovsk Palace, illustrated in the 1977 exhibition, A. Kuchumov, *Household interior decoration in nineteenth century Russia*, Leningrad, 1977, p. 52. See also T. K. Sokolova and T. A. Orlova, *Russian interiors of the first third of the 19th century seen through contemporary eyes*, Leningrad, 1982, p. 63.