



## 18TH CENTURY FRENCH NORMANDY CARVED & PAINTED "COFFRE DE MARIAGE" WEDDING TRUNK

\$1,900

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**SKU:** 253-230

**Stock:** N/A

**Categories:** [Trunks, Safes, & Decorative Boxes](#), [New Arrivals](#)

This rare antique French "Coffre de Mariage" wedding trunk was crafted in Normandy in the late 18th century, very likely dated 1780, as indicated by a faint painted inscription visible beneath the decorative surface. Constructed from solid pine with a traditional domed lid, the coffre retains its original hand-painted folk art decoration on a deep indigo ground, enriched with stylized floral forms, spirals, and abstract roundels rendered in ochre, cream, soft red, and muted green. These naïve yet symbolic motifs are characteristic of rural Norman marriage chests and are traditionally associated with fertility, continuity, and prosperity, reflecting the coffre's role as a bride's trousseau chest. Of particular importance is the partially obscured inscription, including the clearly legible date "1780," which appears to have been applied directly to the wood prior to painting. This practice is well documented in Normandy, where marriage chests were often dated and occasionally inscribed with the names or initials of the bride and groom before being decorated. The fact that the inscription is now softened, fragmented, and partially covered by paint and wear is entirely consistent with age and strongly supports an 18th-century origin rather than a later decorative piece. The trunk retains its original hand-forged iron hinges and front lock plate, all showing a naturally aged surface and honest wear. The interior remains unpainted, revealing warm, time-softened wood with visible grain, tool marks, and a rich patina developed through generations of use. Areas of paint loss, surface abrasion, and wear are present throughout and contribute to the authenticity and visual appeal of this antique Normandy wedding trunk. Both decorative and functional, this antique coffre de mariage is ideal for storing linens, keepsakes, or documents, and makes a compelling folk art accent on a console, chest, or tabletop. It is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use. Dimensions: 15.25"W x 10.5"D x 9.75"H