



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

\$1,900

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This beautifully executed antique wedding trunk was crafted in Normandy, France, circa 1780, and exemplifies the traditional coffre de mariage once given to brides to hold linens, personal textiles, and treasured household goods. Hand-built in pine wood, the rectangular trunk features a gently arched lid, a classic regional form that adds both visual charm and structural strength. The exterior retains its original hand-painted decoration, showcasing lively floral sprays, stylized foliage, and charming birds rendered in warm ochre, deep green, black, and soft red tones. These folk-art motifs are characteristic of late 18th-century Norman craftsmanship and were often symbolic of prosperity, fertility, and domestic harmony. The front panel is centered by the original forged iron lock plate and hasp, displaying a rich, naturally aged surface. A simple wire handle remains affixed to the lid, reinforcing its authentic utilitarian origins. Inside, the trunk opens to reveal a clean, divided interior with two compartments, ideal for organizing smaller textiles or personal objects. The interior wood surfaces show honest wear consistent with age and use, contributing to the piece's genuine antique character. Overall condition is very good, with expected surface wear, paint losses, and patina that enhance its historic appeal rather than detract from it. This antique French marriage trunk is both a decorative statement and a meaningful historic object, perfect for use as a decorative storage chest, a coffee table accent, or a romantic focal point in a bedroom or entryway. Its scale and vivid folk-art decoration make it especially appealing for collectors of French provincial and early European decorative arts. Dimensions: 19" W x 13.5" D x 11.5" H