



## 19TH CENTURY FRENCH IRON SAFE WITH WALNUT VENEER & MARBLE TOP BY VERSTAEN, PARIS

**\$4,900**

---

**SKU:** 251-387

**Stock:** N/A

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

Crafted in Paris circa 1870 by Verstaen, this "Coffre-Fort" incombustible combines the refinement of fine French cabinetry with the security of a fireproof safe. The body is constructed in heavy iron, clad in richly figured walnut wood veneer with gilt-painted accents, and designed to mimic a chest of drawers. A rectangular Breccia marble top with molded edge crowns the piece, adding both beauty and durability. The façade features four faux drawers with false keyholes, disguising the true locking system. A sliding trim on the second drawer reveals two functional keyholes. The first keyhole engages the main locking mechanism and the spring-loaded latch bolt. The second keyhole controls the integrated combination lock, which prevents the main lock from disengaging when scrambled. The interior is fitted with one adjustable shelf and a separate lock box with its own key for additional security. Four keys are included: two for the main lock and the combination system, and two for the inside lock box. The inside of the door retains its original maker's plaque which reads: "Verstaen Paris, Fondation 1827, Société Anonyme Verstaen-Chevet". In excellent condition commensurate with age and use, this antique safe is not only exceptionally secure and heavy but also presents as an elegant furniture piece, suitable for a study, library, or collector's interior. Operating Instructions: To lock: Close the door. Insert the key into the first keyhole, push in, and turn counterclockwise. The main lock is now engaged. Next, insert the key into the second keyhole and turn counterclockwise at least once to scramble the combination. To reset the combination: Insert the key into the second hole and turn clockwise until it stops; the combination is now zeroed. Then turn the key four clicks counterclockwise, four clicks clockwise, and four clicks counterclockwise again. The combination is now set correctly, and the main lock can be unlocked. To unlock: Insert the key into the first keyhole, push in, and turn clockwise to disengage the main lock. Video to operate the safe available upon request. Verstaen, often spelled "Verstaen", was a Paris-based manufacturer of safes in France, known for producing mechanical models equipped with combination locks. The company was founded in 1827 and, in 1923, is recorded as having partnered with the Chevet house in Rouen. Measures: 19.75" W x 15.5" D x 36" H. Over 200 pounds.