

Secrétaire á Abattant by Riesener Mentioned in the Garde Meuble (1774-1784)

Entry Number	Date of Entry	Type of Desk²	Description	Comments
2737	28 -March - 1774	<i>Secrétaire en bois de Marqueterie et a cylindre</i>	<i>Delivered to the Monsieur de Comte de Provence at Versailles this Secrétaire à cylindre is very similar to the grander of the King's own desk. Each side has marquetry depicting key aspects of the military and the arts. On the front are attributes of Royalty and military, on the right love of the arts, below are children and a cock, on the back a lyre books. Behind the cylinder, are 9 drawers one with inkstand, powder box and sponge box. The inside writing surface is covered with black velvet with gold braid. The exterior is enriched with moulding of chiselled bronze and gilt³.</i>	Unknown
2749	28- May - 1774	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Walnut <i>secrétaire</i> with fall front that forms a table with black Moroccan leather. It has four drawers, each with a copper knobs, the drawer on the far right has an inkstand, powder/sandbox of yellow copper ⁴ . It also has three other drawers on the outside with	Note that the desk top is covered with <i>black</i> leather – it will be seen

² This is as it was given in the text of the journals. Please recall that *Secrétaire en armoire* is equivalent to *secrétaire á abattant*.

³ While in most sections the term ormolu is used to describe these items, however in this case, the terms were the closed translation possible. Thus they described these as gilded bronze and gilded metals.

⁴ Please note that in most cases three items were mentioned – an inkstand, powder or sand box, and a sponge box. In this case the sponge box was not mentioned. Was this error or perhaps this did not have a sponge box?

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			keys. The length of the <i>secrétaire</i> is three pied ⁵ (3.198 feet/97.48 CM).	that this is how most items were covered. It is unclear what is meant by the direction of the measure the phrase used is ' <i>secrétaire long de 3 pied</i> ' Does 'long' refer to it's width? Or height? No other measurements were provided.
2759	15-June - 1774	<i>secrétaire en armoire</i>	Marquetry of flowers with different colours. It has a fall front door which forms a writing table covered in black velvet. The top is white marble, has gilded bronze. The fall front conceals six drawer with gilded knobs the drawer on the right contains the inkstand and sandbox in silvered copper. In the lower section there are two drawers and a safe box. The whole locks with key. This is 3-pied 10 <i>pounce</i> high, 30 pounce wide (4.09 ft high x 2.67 ft wide/ 124.66 CM X 81.38 CM).	In this case it was black velvet that was given as the writing surface (not leather), but still <i>black</i> . Considering the size of this piece of furniture, this is apparently not a 'true' <i>secrétaire á abattant</i> .
2763	22 – June – 1774	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Three <i>secrétaires</i> made of walnut with key operated locks. The front folds out into a writing table, exposing 3 drawers on each side. Above the ' <i>abattant</i> ' (fall front) is a locking drawer,	

⁵ 1 *pied du roi*(foot) = 1.066 feet =32.48 cm/ 1 *pounce* (thumb) = 1.066 inches = 27.07 mm/1 *ligne*(line)= 2.256mm.

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			below the fall front are 2 doors that lock with a key. 4- <i>pied</i> high x 3 <i>pied</i> 2 <i>pounce</i> wide x 1.5 <i>pied</i> deep (4.26 feet high x 3.37 feet wide x 1.6 feet deep/129.85CM high x 102.7 CM wide x 48.8 CM deep).	
2790	31– August - 1774	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Upright <i>Secrétaire</i> . Top is made of <i>breche d'alep</i> marble ⁶ . The top part unfolds to form a writing table exposing 6 drawers one with an inkstand, sandbox and sponge box all in silvered copper. In the bottom section is a safe with 2 locked drawers. The whole piece is ornate for example; around the locks are gold rings. 4 ½ <i>pied</i> high x 3 ½ <i>pied</i> wide x 16 <i>pounce</i> deep, (4.8 feet high x 3.731 feet wide x 1.42 feet deep/146.3 CM high x 113.7 CM wide x 42.9 CM deep.)	
2796	30 – October – 1774	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Two <i>secrétaires</i> to serve the lady's maids of Madame Victoire and Sophie of France at <i>Versailles</i> . Both are of walnut and have a locked drawer on the top, and at the bottom 2 doors, with a safe inside along with 2 drawers. The upper section folds down and is covered with black Moroccan leather. Inside are six drawers one with inkstand and sandbox in yellow copper. Measures 4 ½ <i>pied</i> high, x 3 <i>pied</i> wide x 15 <i>pounce</i> deep (4.8 feet high x 3.2 feet wide x 1.33 feet deep/146.3 CM high x 97.54 CM wide x 40.54 CM deep.)	
2799	30 – October – 1774	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	It states that this was for the service of the <i>Garde Meuble</i> . This <i>secrétaire</i> was made of walnut. The fall front folds down to form a writing surface which is covered with black Moroccan leather and exposing 6 drawers (one with an inkstand, sandbox and sponge box –	

⁶ Marble composed of fragments of stones that are of several different colours and shapes.

⁷ This number could not be read from the documents.

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			all in copper). The bottom is covered with two swinging doors which when opened reveals a safe inside. All knobs are made of a coloured copper. 4 <i>pied</i> high x 3 <i>pied</i> wide x ? ⁷ <i>Pounce</i> deep (4.27 feet high x 3.2 feet wide x ? feet deep/130.2 CM high x 97.5 CM wide x ? CM deep	
2804	16 – January – 1775	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	The top of this <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> is made of marble from Flanders. It is made of an Indian wood veneer. ⁸ The fall front has a flower basket. This when unfolded, forms a writing table and exposes 6 drawers, several dividers forming compartments; one of the drawers contains an inkstand, sandbox and a sponge box – all are of a silvered copper. At the bottom are 2 pigeonholes and 4 drawers. The front locks and knobs as well as rings and mouldings are done in gilded bronze. Below are 2 pigeonholes with safe (with a separate key). Around the locks are coloured bronzes. 5 <i>pied</i> high x 27 <i>pounce</i> wide x 15 <i>pounce</i> deep (5.33 feet high x 2.4 feet wide x 1.33 feet deep/162.48 CM high x 73.15 CM wide x 40.54 CM deep	
2812	22 – April - 1775	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This walnut <i>secrétaire</i> was made for the first manservant at Versailles. It has a marble top made from marble from Flanders. At the top is a locked (within the frieze) drawer and below is the fall front or abattant, which is covered with black Moroccan leather on the inside/writing surface. Behind the 'abattant' are 6 drawers with bronze knobs. One drawer has three sections for the inkstand, sandbox and sponge box – all in copper. 4 <i>pied</i> high x 3.5 <i>pied</i> wide and 15 <i>pounce</i> deep (4.27 feet high x 3.73 feet wide x 1.33 feet	

⁸ The term 'Indian wood' was mentioned several times through these documents, however there is never any further identification mentioned. Perhaps it is Indian rosewood?

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			deep/ 130.2 CM high x 113.7 CM wide x 40.54 CM deep)	
2813	22 April - 1775	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This walnut <i>secrétaire</i> was made for the first man servant of the <i>Count d'Artois</i>. In the frieze at the top is a drawer. Below this is the '<i>abattant</i>' covered on the inside with black Moroccan leather forming a writing surface. Inside, behind the fall front, are six drawers with copper knobs. A drawer on the right contains the inkstand, sand box and sponge box. The lower section is divided into different compartments with a safe (with a special key) forming one of the sections.</p> <p>4 <i>pied</i> high x 3 <i>pied</i> wide x 25 <i>pounce</i> deep (4.264 ft h x 3.198 ft w x 26 in d / 129.29 cm h x 97.44 cm w x 67.675 cm d)</p>	
2846	17 – April - 1776	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>A mahogany <i>secrétaire</i> with a white marble top, a drop front table that folds out to form a desk with Moroccan leather on the interior surface. Behind the '<i>abattant</i>' are six drawers with one including an ink stand and sand box (sponge box was not mentioned). The top drawer locks has a frieze, the lower section has two pigeon holes with safe. Handles are golden (gilded bronze?) rings handles. It has decorations around the locks.</p> <p>4 ½ <i>pied</i> high x 3 <i>pied</i> 2 <i>pounce</i> wide x 17 <i>pounce</i> deep (4.797 ft h x 3.375 ft w x 18.2 in d / 146.16 cm h x 102.154 cm w x 46.0 cm d)</p>	
2851	22 – May – 1776	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This walnut <i>secrétaire</i> was made for the <i>Garde Meuble</i> at Versailles. It has several divisions with drawers one with the inkstand, sand box and sponge box, At the bottom there are safe with a special lock and lock decoration in gold colour (gilded bronze?). The lower section also has several compartments and a safe.</p> <p>4 <i>pied</i> 2 <i>pounce</i> high x 3 <i>pied</i> wide x 15 <i>pounce</i> deep (4.442 ft h x 3.198 ft w x 16 in d / 135.334 cm h x 97.44 cm w x 40.6 cm d)</p>	
2887	28 – February –	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This desk is made of walnut with the inside writing surface (behind the '<i>abattant</i>') is made of black Morocco leather. Behind the drop front are six drawers, one with ink stand, sand</p>	

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	1777		<p>box, and sponge box all in copper. Bottom has two slots with a safe and special key lock. The top drawer, behind the frieze is a drawer with key. Ornate with gilded bronze.</p> <p>4 pied high x 3 pied wide 15 pounce deep (4.264 ft h x 3.198 ft w x 16 in d / 129.29 cm h x 97.44 cm w x 40.6 cm d)</p>	
2904	6 - August - 1777	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This <i>secrétaire</i> was for the King at <i>Petit Trianon</i>. It has a white, veined marble top. The top drawer, above the drop front, is decorated with gold circled bronze and with the head of Hercules with two children, music and other ornaments. The front marquetry panel shows a woman illustrating silence. The '<i>abattant</i>' is covered with black velvet. Behind the drop front are several drawers (one with an Inkstand, sandbox and sponge box) as well as a hidden compartment. The bottom has two pigeon holes, four drawers and a safe.</p> <p>? High x 3 pied 3 pounce wide x 15 pounce deep (? ft h x 3.4645 ft w x 16 in d / ? cm h x 105.561 cm w x 40.6 cm d)</p>	<p>Again the translation is for black velvet not leather.</p> <p>This piece is thought to be the <i>secrétaire</i> that is currently in Waddesen Manor. The descriptions match up very well with the exception of the leather on the fall front.</p> <p>Note the height was unreadable.</p>
2908	6 - August - 1777	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This mahogany desk, which was for the queen, also has a white marble top, which is followed by a single drawer with a lock. The <i>abattant</i> is covered with black Moroccan leather. Behind the <i>abattant</i> are 5 and 7 drawers with one containing the standard inkwell; sandbox and sponge box in silvered copper. In the bottom section is a safe and shelves. It is decorated with gilded bronze.</p> <p>4 pied three pounce high x 3 pied 15 pied wide (4.5305 ft h x 3.198 ft w x 16 in d / 138.044 cm h x 97.44 cm w x 40.6 cm d)</p>	

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2929	13 – September - 1778	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the Kings residence at the <i>Château de Marly</i> . These four walnut <i>secretaries</i> each contain, behind the drop front, 6 compartments and 6 drawers of which one contains the standard inkwell, sandbox and sponge box. All of these are in copper. The bottom part has a safe with key knobs and escutcheons are all in gold colour bronze. 4 and ½ pied high x 3 pied wide (4.797 ft h x 3.198 ft w x ? in d / 146.16 cm h x 97.44 cm w x ? cm d)	
2950	29 – September - 1778	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the service of Madame Elizabeth in Versailles. This <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> . Languedoc marble top with a fall front that when opened is covered with black velvet with a gold braiding edging. Inside there 6 compartments and 6 drawers one of which has the ink well, sandbox and sponge coppered box with a secret compartment in the centre (which is opened with an extra ½ turn of the key. In the bottom section there are four drawers and a safe. On the front of the <i>abattant</i> there is a trophy of poetry standing on a flower terrace. The <i>secretaris</i> is embellished with mouldings, friezes, gilded frames, small braces rosettes and gold medallions. 4.5 pied high x 3.5 pied wide and 16 pounce deep (4.797 ft h x 3.731 ft w x 17.1 in d / 146.16 cm h x 113.68 cm w x 43.3 cm d)	
2959	12 – October - 1778	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the service of the King for use at the Chateau de Fontainebleau. Marquetry <i>secrétaire</i> with panels of mosaics on the front at the drop leaf, the marquetry was a trophy of musical instruments. On the inside, four drawers one of which has the standard ink pot, sandbox and sponge box in silvered coper. Ornaments composed of a balustrade around a dome brackets and key with gilded gold copper. ? pied high x 3 pied long x 18 pounce deep (? ft h x 3.198 ft w x 19.2 in d / ? cm h x 97.44 cm w x 48.7 cm d)	
2960	12 –	<i>Secrétaire en</i>	Two walnut <i>Secrétaire</i> , lock has gold copper-coloured escutcheons, inside the <i>abattant</i> there	

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	October - 1778	<i>armoire</i>	<p>are 4 compartments and 6 drawers one of which has the ink well, sandbox, and sponge box. In the bottom is a safe with a special key.</p> <p>4.5 pied high x 3 pied 4 pounce wide x 15 pounce deep (4.797 ft h x 3.553 ft w x 16 in d / 146.14 cm h x 108.268 cm w x 40.6 cm d)</p>	
3029	20 – May - 1780	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>Made of different rosewoods with rose diamonds in the veneer. Has a top drawer; then behind the abattant, there are six drawers (one with the ink well, sand box and sponge box – each are whitened copper). In the lower section there is a safe. The writing surface on the abattant is covered with green leather. The piece is decorated with moulded gilded bronze.</p> <p>3 pied 2 pounce wide(? ft h x 3.375 ft w x ? in d / ? cm h x 102.854 cm w x ? cm d).</p>	
3037	12 – June - 1780	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>Made for the queen at Versailles. The top is of white marble with veins. The outside is decorated with marquetry forming panels with diamonds shapes rose diamonds and rings. Inside the <i>secrétaire</i>, behind the <i>abattant</i> there is a filing system of rosewood with 6 compartments and 6 drawers of which one has the 3 writing compartments of silvered copper. It is decorated with different trophies vases filled with flowers inlaid on grey satinwood. A number of gilded decorations of antique themes such as Hercules head in the frieze with children. The baluster is framed with pearled mouldings rose diamonds and rings. There is also a secret compartment with two more drawers. The lower section has 4 drawers and a safe.</p> <p>4.5 pied high x 3 pied wide x 16 pounce deep ().</p>	
3079	12 – June - 1781	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>This walnut desk as armoire is decorated at the to with knobs and a front escutcheons – all gold coloured. The <i>abattant</i> is covered in black Moroccan leather. The <i>Abattant</i> hides five boxes and six drawers. One of these drawers ink pot, sand box and sponge box all in copper. The lower section has two swing doors, behind which are two boxes and a safe with a key.</p>	

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			4.0 pied high x 34 pounce wide x 15 pounce deep ().	
3088	30 – July - 1781	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This was made for the first valet in the King's chambers at Versailles. This <i>secrétaire</i> offers a filing system behind the drop front which consists of several boxes and 4 drawers of which one has the ink well, sand box and sponge box for writing. The surface of the <i>abattant</i> is covered with Moroccan leather. The bottom part closes with a special key. There is a large drawer at the top (frieze) that is decorated with knobs and gold coloured bronze ornaments. 2.5 pied wide	
3092	24 – August - 1781	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This was made to go into Versailles. This is a walnut <i>secrétaire</i> which contains six boxes and six drawers in the top section. One of the drawer's has an inkwell, sand box and sponge box all in copper. The <i>abattant</i> is covered in black Moroccan leather. The bottom section has two compartments and a safe that closes with a special key. A large drawer at the top forms part of the frieze ormolu of gold coloured bronze. 4 pied 4 pounce high x 3 pied wide x 15 pounce deep	
3098	6 – September – 1781	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Produced for Count of Artois (1757 –1836) at the <i>Château de la Muette</i> . Provided filing for papers with 5 boxes and 6 drawers of which one has an inkwell, sand box, and sponge box all of silver copper. The lower section has a box and a safe with a special key. A large drawer at the top forms a veneered frieze (Indian wood) forming several wood panels surrounded by black and white lines, purplewood, decorated with rose diamonds, frames mouldings surrounding all of the marquetry panels. Lock fronts and rings shaped as medallions serve as holding drawer. All of this in a golden coloured bronze (gilded). 4 pied 3 pounce high x 3 pied wide x 14 pounce deep	
3100	28 – September	<i>Secrétaire en</i>	This walnut desk had a section for holding paper with 5 compartments and 6 drawers. One of these drawers had an ink well, sand and sponge box all done in copper. The inside of the	

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	– 1781	<i>armoire</i>	abattant was covered with Black Moroccan leather. The bottom had 2 compartments and a safe. 4.5 pied high x 3 pied wide x 15 pounce deep.	
3188	24 – September - 1782	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Produced for first valet of the king at the <i>Château de la Muette</i> . With its marble top a drawer at the top (underneath the marble) and behind the abattant there were 6 more drawers. One of these drawers had the ink well, sand box and sponge box all made in copper. The Abattant was covered with black Moroccan leather. The bottom section had a safe which closed with a special key. The lock fronts, knobs and rings were all golden bronze. 2.5 pied wide.	
3198	25 – October – 1782	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This mahogany <i>secrétaire</i> had a white, veined marble top. Below the marble, is a drawer on the outside. On the inside of the <i>abattant</i> are paper compartments with 6 sections and 6 drawers. (Again) One of the drawers has an inkwell, sand box and sponge box in silvered copper. Covering the (inside of the) <i>abattant</i> is black Moroccan leather. The bottom section has a safe inside. The whole is decorated, the front of locks and bronze rings. 4 pied high x 3 pied wide x 15 pounce deep ()	
3208	12 – February - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	Delivered to the interior closet of the queen at the <i>Chateau de Versailles</i> . A <i>secrétaire</i> as wardrobe in marquetry and marble top and bronze ormolu (no other description is provided.)	A <i>secrétaire á abattants</i> with the inventory number 3208 is currently in The Wallace Collection. The piece in The Wallace Collection with this inventory number does not have

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				marquetry on it. Instead it is covered with Thuya wood.
3210	8 – March - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	<p>Delivered in the service of the Queen at the <i>Petit Trianon</i>. This <i>Secrétaire en armoire</i> is covered with marquetry and has a marble top. It has 6 boxes and 6 drawers in the top section (1 drawer has the 3 compartments with silvered copper inkwells, container for sand and another container for a sponge.). In the lower section is a safe with a special key. It is decorated with gilded bronze floral arrangements.</p> <p>4 pied high x 2.5 pied wide x 14 pounce deep (4.26 feet high x 2.67 feet wide x 1.24 feet deep/129.85 cm high x 81.38 cm wide x 37.8 cm deep)</p>	This is an accurate description of the <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> that is currently in The Wallace Collection (F302) however this description does not include the plaque at the centre supporting P. Hughes conclusion that this was added later in the 19 th century.
3226	31 – May - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the service of the closet of the king at the <i>Chateau de Marly</i> . This <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> with marquetry has a marble top. The top has several compartments of mosaics of rosewood and amaranth frieze having a drawer at the top and under the <i>abattant</i> ; there are six other drawers. One of these drawers has an inkwell, sandbox, and sponge box; all in silvered copper. On the back of the <i>abattant</i> there is black Moroccan leather. Below are two drawers and a safe operating with a special key. The entire piece is covered with gold bronze decorations.	
3243	26 – July - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the service of the King for <i>Fountainbleu</i> . Two walnut <i>secrétaires en armoire</i> has a drawer at the top. Under the fall front there are 6 drawers (one has an inkwell, sandbox, and sponge box all in copper). The fall front, itself, is covered (on the inside) with Moroccan leather. The bottom section has a safe with a special key. It is decorated with gilded bronze and includes rings and knobs.	

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			4 Pied wide (no other measures were provided)	
3261	30 – August - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	For the small apartments at Versailles. This <i>secrétaire</i> has a veined marble top, surrounded by a gallery. It has a large drawer at the top with a frieze. Inside the top section (behind the abattant) there are five boxes and six drawers of which one has an inkwell, a sandbox and a sponge box all in silvered copper. The bottom part has four drawers and a safe which opens with a special key. The entire piece is decorated with garlands of flowers all of gild and mat gold bronze.. Sizes were not provided.	
3308	31 – October - 1783	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This walnut <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> was made for the service of Madame Elizabeth at the <i>Chateau de Versailles</i> . The top has several compartments for paper, as well as several drawers. One of these drawers has an inkwell, a sandbox and a sponge box. All of this is closed by the abattant. The lower section has a safe that is locked with a special key. The piece is decorated with gilded bronze. Sizes were not provided.	
3332	14 – May – 1784	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	A mahogany <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> made for someone at <i>Versailles</i> .	
(No Number Provided)	18 – September – 1784	<i>Secrétaire en armoire</i>	This <i>secrétaire en armoire</i> is decorated with marquetry. In the top section, it has six boxes and six drawers one of which has a writing case that has been silvered. The whole is plated in satined wood. The bottom part has a safe that locks with a special key. On the top is a veined marble. The entire piece has been decorated with gold ormolu.	