An Italian parcel-gilt, rosewood, marquetry and ebonized bureau cabinet.
Rome, second quarter of the 18th Century.

Height: 8 ft. 3 ¼ in (252 cm)
Width: 4 ft. 9 in in. (145 cm)
Depth: 27 ½ in. (70 cm)

Provenance:
Sold from an Italian Private Collection, Christie's London, 5 December 2013, lot 56 for £158,500.

Inlaid overall with foliate scrolls, the arched cresting with broken pediment centred by a standing classical figure, flanked by urn finials, above a pair of arched and recessed mirrored doors enclosing a fitted walnut-veneered interior with central and side niches, above two short drawers, the lower section fitted with a sloping front revealing a writing surface and five variously-sized drawers around a beige velvet-lined compartment and a secret slide enclosing a further two drawers and a well, above three long shaped drawers with cartouche-shaped lockplates, the shaped sides inlaid conformingly and adorned with foliate-carved spandrels, on shaped bracket feet.

Comparative Literature:

• A. Gonzalez-Palacios, *Arredi e ornamenti alla corte di Roma, 1560-1795*, Milan, 2004, pp. 182-186, nos. I-II.
• G. Lizzani, *Il Mobile Romano*, Milan, 1970, pp. 133-134, nos. 222-223.

This bureau cabinet is part of a very small group of pieces documented to Roman workshops around the second quarter of the 18th Century studied by Alvar González-Palacios. The scholar brackets the group under the name used most frequently at the time: *burò*.

The present example is nearly identical to one published by González-Palacios, which presents a very similar arrangement in its upper section, although with monochrome paintings inside the doors, attributed to the Roman capriccio and landscape painter Paolo Anesi (1697-1773) (*op. cit.*, no. I, fig. 1).

González-Palacios associates this model with the pair that survive today in the Palazzo Pallavicini in Rome, illustrated in Lizzani, *op. cit.*, nos. 222-223. The pieces of this *burò* group all share the same combination of rosewood and marquetry and, ultimately, are inspired by earlier Anglo-Dutch models. Period inventories sometimes make this explicit in referring to these cabinets as *all'uso inglese* (in the English style).

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Fig. 1 Roman *burò,* second quarter of the 18th Century, cfr. González-Palacios, *op. cit.,* no. I

Fig.2 Our Burò

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