



A Carved Coral Sculpture - Amulet With Two Dolphins. XIX Century



1 100 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Coral

Length : 75mm

Width : 48mm

Height : 15mm

Description

A coral sculpture - amulet engraved with two dolphins.

Nineteenth century.

Weight 17gr

Created from a single branch of coral, engraved and polished.

In a good condition.

Italian workmanship of the Trapani tradition, but difficult to place more precisely, as the Trapani artisans moved around Italy over time, forming, among other things, a lesser-known processing center in Livorno, the place of probable creation of this splendid object.

Sculpture with two fish, probably two dolphins, or 2 imaginary marine monsters, which transform themselves into a kind of cornucopia, from which fruits emerge in abundance.

Dealer

Antichità di Alina

Peintures anciennes - Art nouveau - Art déco,
micromosaïques, porcelaine

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The peculiarity of this small ancient sculpture lies in the double fish, while usually it was a fish (or a snake).

In the culture of southern Italy it was traditional to give a carved coral to a newborn male: amulets in the shape of animals/sea monsters called "SCURSUNA" (plural of scursuni).

It is a word from the Sicilian dialect which generically designates a reptile, or various species of cylindrical and elongated snakes, venomous and not. In the popular imagination they were traditionally associated with bivalent authorities, sometimes negative, as bearers of poison, sometimes positive, as protective spirits.

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