



## Pair Of Japanese Satsuma Vases Very Good Condition



240 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ceramic

Diameter : 17 cm

Height : 31 cm

### Description

This pretty pair of vases in perfect condition originates from the province of Satsuma, Japan, and dates from the last years of the 19th century, since they bear the mention "made in Japan" which was imposed by Great Britain from 1887.

They represent on one side a high-ranking Samurai, in armor from the beginning of the Muromachi period, who holds in his hands a sword surrounded by flames, under the protective gaze of Amaterasu, the goddess of the sun. The warrior is surrounded by small clouds of smoke.

It is a representation of the story of the famous hero YAMATO TAKERU no Mikoto, who had received at the temple of the goddess Amaterasu a sword intended to protect him from his enemies.

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They thought to finish him off by setting fire to the tall grass of a field in the middle of which the hero was. Yamato Takeru managed to escape death by mowing the grass around him with his sword, which was called the "Kusa-nagi no Tsurugi" (= the grass mowing sword).

On the other side, the minister and famous Japanese calligrapher Ono-no-Tofu is depicted in the classic way to represent him, standing under the branches of a weeping willow, his gaze falling on a small frog (not shown here).

The tradition says that this character was desperate to have tried 7 times to obtain a post of civil servant of a higher rank than the one he occupied and was thinking of resigning, when he saw at his feet a little frog who tried 7 times to reach a leaf of the weeping willow and got there on the 8th time.

Ono understood that the Gods sent him a message of perseverance, and he steeled himself and ended up finally obtaining the position of minister he wanted.

At the level of the neck of the vase, colored frieze with the "Mon" (blazon) of the Satsuma clan

At the level of the bottom of the vases, inscription "Made in Japan" and 4 characters in a seal which are not the translation of "made in Japan" but the stamp of the ceramist.

These vases have "mirror" decorations, so it's a real pair and not twice the same vase

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