



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Ath 1750-1775, Queen's Fly Box Or Vinaigrette , Sterling Silver, Lodereindoosje



525 EUR

Signature : Maître poinçonnant d'un marteau

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description

Lovely little fly or water from the Queen of Hungary box with the hallmarks of the town of Ath and a master goldsmith hallmarking with a hammer of which I also have a snuffbox from 1789. Its style is typical for the period 1750-1770. It is made of solid silver. The Queen of Hungary's water was a perfume made from rosemary, orange blossom and rose water, which had great success in the eighteenth century. According to legend, a hermit offered it to a queen of Hungary, aged 72 at the time. She used the miracle water for a year and, suffering from the ills of old age, she then regained her health, her shape and the beauty of her twenty years. A prodigious story of which we find a written trace: "I Dona Isabelle Queen of Hungary, being seventy-two years old, very infirm and gouty,

Dealer

Ian Panné

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Essene-kerkplein 5b

Affligem 1790

used the following recipe for a whole year (...)
Which had such an effect , that at the same time I
healed and recovered my strength, so that
appearing beautiful to everyone, the King of
Poland wanted to marry me: which I refused." It
is then called the Water of the Queen of Hungary.
Historians have recently looked into this legend,
wanting to find this queen who gave her name to
the perfume. Several queens are then mentioned
between 1370 and 1666, without any being able
to correspond to the testimony of this 72-year-old
queen. The reality would therefore ultimately be
less miraculous since it could be the first
"marketing coup" in history. The perfumers of
Montpellier are said to have invented the story
from scratch to arouse the curiosity and desire of
their customers and thus introduce the water of
the Queen of Hungary to the court of Louis XIV!
Madame de Maintenon, governess of the children
of Louis XIV with whom she married in secret
after the death of his legitimate wife, made this
water her favorite product. She also
recommended it to the residents of the royal
house of Saint-Cyr to protect them from diseases
and epidemics. Madame de Sévigné is also a very
regular user, writing to her daughter Madame de
Grignan: "I'm crazy about it, it's the relief of all
my sorrows." Until the end of the 18th century,
the reputation of this water with its thousand
benefits continued to grow. It is then gradually
replaced by another famous water, eau de
Cologne. However, it is not completely forgotten.
The goldsmiths of Ath had great difficulty
meeting their subsistence needs with orders from
local customers. This is why they specialized in
the manufacture of what their contemporaries
called "menuties", that is to say small silver
objects which could be easily exported to other
cities in the Austrian Netherlands to be sold there
on the annual markets or with merchants. This is
why the hallmark of the city of Ath is clearly
over-represented on the hands. snuff boxes, fly
boxes, shoe buckles and other costume buttons
found on the production of Belgian goldsmiths

from the eighteenth century.