Petaca Chest, 18th Century



2 650 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Leather

Length : 62 cm

Width : 40 cm

Height : 29 cm

Description

North America, New Mexico, Spanish Colonial Period, circa 1700 to 1780. A beautifully preserved example of a Spanish Colonial pétaca (travel suitcase), made of rawhide. It features limb bands that act as hinges and an iron lock at the front. The leather features a fantastic repeating geometric decoration of stars and flowers, in a style inspired by the Aztecs. Petacas like these were used throughout the Spanish Empire, with some regional stylistic variations. Dimensions: 62 cm x 40 cm x 29 cm Mary Caroline Montano writes in her book "Tradiciones Nuevomexicanas: Hispano Arts and Culture of New Mexico": "Some New Mexico chests were made with an overlay of leather, an influence from the Aztec Indians Mexicans, who called their leather chests "petacas" (derived from

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the Nahuatl term "petlacalli", designating the pre-Columbian strips intertwined with reed or palm fibers, and later with fabric and leather). The term is still used in New Mexico and southern Colorado. (p. 103).