



Antique Indian Handmade Silver Plated Pandan Box, C. 19th Century.



700 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Metal

Description

This is an antique, handcrafted, footed ornate Indian silver-plated Paan Daan or Pandan box, traditionally used for storing betel leaves, nuts, and related items. It is a beautiful example of traditional 19th-century Indian craftsmanship. The piece is round in shape with a graceful domed lid, typical of Pandan boxes. Intricate hand-carved motifs decorate the exterior, displaying floral patterns and figures of deities. The box is adorned with figures of Indian deities who have been worshipped for over 2,000 years--Krishna and Radha. They represent the combined form of the Hindu god Krishna and his chief consort and shakti, Radha. In Krishnaism, it is believed that while Krishna enchants the world, Radha enchants even him. Therefore, she is considered the supreme goddess, and together

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they are called Radha-Krishna. The artist has embossed their figures among floral designs. On the bottom are engraved leaves that look like betel. Every detail is so expressive that you could gaze at them endlessly. Historically, Pandans were used by everyone, from commoners to kings and maharajas. Usually, these boxes were made from copper or tinned copper, while silver-plated examples were typically found in the homes of nobility. This piece was likely handmade in the Rajasthan region of India, an area with a proud history of handicrafts, ranging from textiles and art to silverwork. It is most likely from the late 19th century. It is believed that the origins of the Pandan box date back at least 2,000 years. The earliest evidence of the use of areca nut was found at Spirit Cave in northwestern Thailand, dating back to 10,000 BC. During the colonial period, the tradition of chewing betel was adopted by the Dutch, and exquisite boxes were commissioned, becoming an essential part of hospitality with indigenous rulers. Betel nuts were believed to have medicinal properties. The monarchy's Pandan boxes were made from pure gold and often included intricate gold filigree to symbolize their wealth and status. Today, the 2,000-year-old tradition of betel chewing has decreased in popularity in Southeast Asia. However, in some areas, such as Bombay in India, the tradition continues to grow, and the use of the Pandan box remains necessary. Most Pandan boxes are now displayed in museums, and they can be rare to find, as gold was often melted down in times of need. The legacy of betel chewing endures for its medicinal and symbolic purposes and remains a vital part of South-East Asian culture.

Dimensions: height 19cm, bottom diameter

21.5cm, weight 1704 grams.

Condition: excellent antique condition, no chips, cracks, crazing, nicks, or repairs.

Please study the accompanying photographs carefully as they form an integral part of this description. The item will be shipped with full

tracking and insurance. It is important to note that shipping costs include labour, packaging and postage.