Ottoman Gold-embroidered Silk Tülbent, Istanbul-bursa, 19th Century



2 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Silk

Description

Ottoman tülbent (head scarf/shawl) with gold embroidery and a calligraphic border. Ottoman Empire, probably Istanbul-Bursa. 19th century. Ground: bleached ultra-fine silk gauze (plain 1/1). Embroidery: hand "sirma" (gilded metallic strip on silk/cotton core) in couching, satin stitch, laid work. Continuous benedictory celi sülüs/divani border on the long sides; terminal floral bouquet in mihrab/palmette cartouche flanked by paired crescents with radiant stars; small florals and calligraphic elements in the field. Produced for and used by affluent Muslim urban households in the late Ottoman period; elite city workshop level (non-palace).
A long, lightweight scarf of very fine silk gauze (plain weave 1/1), intended to be worn on the head and shoulders (type tülbent). The decoration

Dealer

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is executed in gold embroidery; by morphology and ornamentation it is ceremonial, used in festive or gift-giving contexts.

Where and how it may have been used

o As a tülbent/basörtüsü -- a formal women's head-and-shoulder scarf for public outings: visits to the mosque, feast days (Bayram), family ceremonies. The 210 × 50 cm format, ultra-thin silk gauze, and gilded embroidery, unsuitable for everyday wear, point to this.

o As part of a dowry (çeyiz) -- a "sirma islemeli tülbent" was almost obligatory in a bride's chest. Worn rarely, more often displayed on kina gecesi (henna night) and at the wedding.

o Less commonly -- as a personal prayer head covering in the mosque (a private "clean" head cloth).

The combination of features -- a continuous calligraphic border with blessings and the crescent-and-star -- gives the piece a ceremonial, "public" aesthetic: it was meant to be shown, not hidden.

Probable owner

o A woman from a prosperous urban household of the late Ottoman period (Istanbul/Bursa and major provincial centers): the wife or daughter of an official, military officer, scholar, or wealthy merchant.

Dimensions: 210 × 50 cm. Dating: late Ottoman, c. 1870-1910. Condition: fragile/fair (central longitudinal tear with old darning, partly reopened; local losses/weakening to metal thread; stains/uneven toning; minor pinholes/snags; edges intact).

Discreet note: the purchase of such a piece is not only a generous gift that signals profound regard for its recipient, but also a long-term investment.

Please study the accompanying photographs carefully as they form an integral part of this description. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them. The item will be shipped with full tracking and insurance.