



"dragon Turtle" Bowl Attr. To Baccarat And F. Barbedienne, France, Circa 1890



6 200 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Crystal

Length : 29,5

Width : 29,5

Height : 13

Description

Beautiful square-shaped bowl in engraved crystal decorated with bamboo and birds.

It rests on a gilded bronze dragon turtle, a legendary Chinese creature with the body of a dragon and the shell of a turtle, a symbol of power and prosperity.

Biography :

The famous crystal manufacture of Baccarat, that dates back to the 18th century, was awarded its first medal in 1823, during the "Exposition des Produits de l'Industrie" for the "brilliance and the sharpness of its crystal" and became then the most renowned French "cristallerie". Baccarat was undoubtedly the only French manufacture that exhibited steadily and magnificently its products at the various Universal Exhibitions, and

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especially between 1855 and 1867. In all reports one can read about the « perfection of the material and of its cut ». To keep its wealthy clientele, among which the Royal family, Baccarat must discover new styles and decors as well as new material.

Born in 1810, died in Paris in 1892, Ferdinand Barbedienne, the most important caster of bronze pieces of art during the second half of the 19th Century, created and directed in Paris one of the major artistic foundries of his time. Barbedienne specialised in classical reproductions, whose models were exposed in famous European museums. Their illustrated catalogues included many diverse objects such as busts, ornamental sculpture (clocks, candelabras, cups) sometimes even life-sized and also bronzes for furniture. Apart from his own production, Barbedienne worked for the most renowned sculptors such as Barrias, Clésinger and Carrier-Belleuse. All his works were highly esteemed and he, himself honoured by contemporary critics. At the London exhibition in 1851 Barbedienne's firm won two « Council medals ». At the 1855 Universal Exhibition, he won a medal of honour. The success of Barbedienne's firm brought him many official commissions, such in about 1860, as Barbedienne supplied bronzes for furniture for the Pompeian Villa of Prince Napoléon-Joseph, located avenue Montaigne in Paris. At the London Universal Exhibition of 1862 Barbedienne won medals in three different categories : Furniture, Silversmith work and Artistic bronzes. Barbedienne was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1867 and Commander in 1878 when he was compared with « a prince of industry and the king of bronze casting ». His glory did not decline with the passage of the time for at the Universal Exhibition of 1889 the critics thanked Barbedienne for the example he set for other bronze-casters by the perfection of his bronzes.