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Rare Samson Porcelain Figures Of Poseidon And Hephaestus, Greek Mythology, C. 1850s



500 EUR

Signature : Samson

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Porcelain

Height : 14,5 cm

Description

Rare Mid-19th Century Samson Paris Porcelain Figures of Poseidon and Hephaestus, Greek Mythology, c. 1850s This rare pair of Paris porcelain figures by Samson et Cie, circa 1850s, represents Poseidon, god of the sea, and Hephaestus, god of fire and metalworking, from classical Greek mythology -- or Neptune and Vulcan in the Roman tradition. Finely hand-modeled and richly hand-painted in the Neoclassical style, these figures reflect the influence of 18th-century Meissen and Sèvres porcelain productions, particularly in their detailed modeling, pierced Rococo Revival bases, and vibrant enamel decoration. Poseidon is depicted nude with a flowing purple mantle and a finely detailed hippocampus (mythical sea creature) at his feet -- a rare and symbolic

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element. Hephaestus, wearing a dark robe and a burgundy cap, stands beside an anvil and holds the tip of a hammer handle, emblematic of his role as the divine craftsman. Each figure bears the distinct blue underglaze Samson mark on the underside -- a characteristic star-like symbol used by the manufactory during this period, reflecting Samson's tradition of emulating earlier European porcelain marks.

Historical Background Founded by Edmé Samson in Paris around 1845, Samson, Edmé et Cie became renowned for producing high-quality porcelain pieces in the styles of earlier European manufactories such as Meissen, Sèvres, Worcester, Derby and Chelsea. Originally intended to supply reproductions for collectors seeking to complete antique sets, Samson's work quickly gained distinction for its technical skill and faithful interpretation of 18th-century designs. Pieces by Samson et Cie are typically marked with variations of underglaze blue marks, such as the star or asterisk, often subtly different from original factory marks. By the mid-19th century, the factory had established itself as a leading Parisian workshop, valued today for its fine modeling, vibrant enamels, and important role in the tradition of historicist decorative arts.

Measurements Height: 14.5 cm / 5.7" **Total weight:** 396 g **Condition** Attractive overall antique condition, with vivid colours, crisp reliefs, and strong visual presence. Hephaestus has the tip of the hammer handle remaining, but the rest of the handle is missing, and there is a chip to the little finger of his left hand. Poseidon originally held a trident, now absent. Minor surface wear to the gilding and typical firing imperfections are present. Despite these losses, both figures present beautifully and retain excellent decorative appeal.

Shipping & Packaging Fully tracked and insured delivery

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photographs carefully, as they form part of the description, and feel free to ask any questions.