



## Rare Antique Silver Holy Water Fount. Large. 19th Century



590 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Sterling silver

Length : 39

Width : 22,5

### Description

This rare and beautiful French holy water font from the nineteenth century is an authentic devotional treasure. It stands out for both its excellent craftsmanship and the exquisite taste with which it was made. It is a large piece, carefully decorated with solid silver over a hand-carved wooden structure covered in red velvet. The whole ensemble exudes solemnity and beauty, making it an absolutely unique piece. The frame, ebonized and carved with baroque-style scrolls, holds a delicate crucifix made entirely of silver. Its design is inspired by the Gothic style and shows great anatomical precision. Christ is depicted nailed to a cross that imitates tree branches, a detail typical of nineteenth-century religious silverwork. Domestic holy water fonts were common devotional

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**IberAntiques**

Antiques and Collectibles

Tel : +34 976 45 39 31

Mobile : +34 617 46 85 03

Calle Juan Cabrero, 18 Local AA

Zaragoza 50007

elements between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. They were usually placed at the entrance of homes, allowing the faithful to bless themselves when entering or leaving the house. This practice invoked divine protection through holy water. In the nineteenth century, during a revival of religious fervor, these pieces reached a high artistic level. France became one of the most refined centers of production. Wealthy families commissioned holy water fonts in bronze, ivory, or silver, like the one we present here. At the top of the crucifix, the traditional parchment with the inscription INRI is missing. Instead, we find an even more evocative symbol, the skull with crossed bones. This motif refers to Mount Golgotha, the place of the skull where Jesus Christ was crucified. On the frame, three silver cherub heads are displayed, located at the top and sides. These figures bring light and movement to the central scene. At the bottom, the holy water scallop shell is placed, also made of silver and richly molded. This piece may originally have been located closer to the crucifix, although it is currently fixed to the base of the frame. The hinged lid is still preserved, although the scallop shell shows a crack and some dents from use. These details, far from detracting value, enhance its authenticity and character. Details such as the Golgotha skull, the cherub figures, and the hand-carved frames are characteristic of the dominant Neo-Gothic and late Baroque styles of the period. Today, they are highly valued objects for their spiritual symbolism, their history, and their artistic value. The original red velvet background retains its texture and vivid color, dramatically framing the silver figures with scenic strength and solemnity. The back of the font shows the wooden support with antique hardware, a proof of its authenticity. This magnificent holy water font is perfect to be reintroduced into the Church, to be used in a parish. It is also ideal for sacred art collectors looking for a piece full of symbolism and history. Without a doubt, it will stand out in a chapel, a

domestic oratory, or a collection display case. Do not miss the opportunity to acquire a unique piece, full of spirituality and with excellent ornamental and historical value. Dimensions: 39 x 22.5 cm (15.35 x 8.86 in) Crucifix: 18 x 8 cm (7 x 3.15 in)