Antique French Leontine Or Chatelaine In Silver-plated Metal And Enamel. France, Circa 1840

390 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Silver metal

Length : 16,5 cm. (6.5 in)

Diameter : 32 mm. (1.26 in)

Description

This extraordinary French leontine from the early 19th century, around 1840, is a collectible piece crafted in silver-plated metal, embodying the style and symbolism of the era. Made up of three distinct elements, the leontine reflects the intricate detail and refinement of French craftsmanship, making it an item of great interest to pocket watch collectors and antique enthusiasts.At the top of the leontine is a decorative medallion, with an elegant design and a clip on the back to secure it firmly to clothing or display surfaces. This upper medallion provides stability to the piece, supporting its original purpose, though today it would be primarily appreciated as a display item in an antique watch collection.The center of the leontine features a small decorative crest, adding a noble and

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sophisticated touch to the overall design. This crest acts as an ornamental link between the upper medallion and the lower section, creating a harmonious visual transition that highlights the era's aesthetic. Its meticulous and delicate design enhances the character of the piece, showcasing the jeweler's skill and dedication.The lower section of the leontine is a small box specially designed to hold a pocket watch of up to 32 mm in diameter. This box has a front decorated with a raised fleur-de-lis on a dark background, a symbol of French monarchy and 19th-century decorative arts. The back of the box is made of glass, allowing the watch face to be viewed without opening it, offering a practical and elegant way to check the time. This design preserves the watch's integrity by keeping it protected at all times.This leontine is ideal for a pocket watch collection or as a decorative piece in a classically styled home. Its solid structure and immaculate preservation make it a valuable and special gem, certain to capture the interest of any lover of history and horology.Dimensions: Total length: 16.5 cm. (6.5 in) Maximum diameter: 32 mm. (1.26 in)History of the LeontineThe leontine, or chatelaine, emerged in Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as an elegant and functional accessory for carrying and displaying pocket watches and other small items. In France, leontines reached high popularity, with pieces like this one, featuring symbolic ornaments like the fleur-de-lis, especially valued for representing nobility and royalty. The leontine not only served to protect and secure the watch but also added a touch of sophistication, reflecting the owner's social status. This silver-plated leontine with a watch box is an excellent example of early 19th-century craftsmanship, preserving the style and symbolism of an era where every detail counted. Today, such pieces are highly prized in the world of collecting for their history and unique beauty.