



Early Christian Gold Tablet-form Pendant. Byzantine Empire, 6th-7th Century Ad.



12 750 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Gold

Description

An Early Christian Gold Pendant in the Form of a Tablet. Byzantine Empire, 6th-7th century AD. Dimensions: 3.8 × 2.5 × 0.4 cm. Weight: 5.63 grams. A finely worked hollow gold pendant of rectangular tablet form, embossed in relief on both faces. To the obverse, the scene depicts the Sacrifice of Isaac: Abraham stands behind his kneeling son, arm raised with knife in hand. In the upper left, a radiant solar motif represents the Angel of the Lord intervening, halting the sacrifice. Beneath the solar motif, Greek letters are inscribed. Behind Abraham stands a lamb beneath a tree, symbolising the divinely provided substitute and prefiguring the sacrificial role of Christ. The reverse features a full-length image of Christ standing in the orant pose, with open hands raised in benediction. He is flanked

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symmetrically by wild felines--perhaps lions or panthers--each accompanied by further Greek characters. This iconography is evocative of Christ's dominion over nature and his triumph over chaos and death. The pendant is equipped with a single suspension loop at the top, while three smaller loops at the base once served to suspend pearls or other decorative elements, now lost. Provenance: Private English collection, assembled between the late 1970s and early 1990s.