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Antique Gilded Silver Ciborium By Pedro Durán, Madrid, Spain, 1955



2 200 EUR

Signature : Pedro Durán

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Height : 26 × 14 × 12 cm (10,24 × 5,51 × 4,72 in)

Description

This magnificent Spanish liturgical ciborium made in 1955 is a true jewel of twentieth-century sacred silverwork. Crafted by the renowned workshop Pedro Durán e Hijos in Madrid, it is entirely made of solid silver with a spectacular gilded finish and bears official hallmarks clearly visible on both the base and the upper rim of the vessel. The execution is of outstanding quality, and its excellent state of preservation makes it a unique piece, suitable both for liturgical use and for collectors.

The hexagonal base features vegetal ornamental reliefs executed with great mastery, alternating scrolls, palmettes and stems that enhance its classical beauty. Particularly noteworthy is the engraved dedication at the base: "D. DIONISIO

Dealer

IberAntiques

Antiques and Collectibles

Tel : +34 976 45 39 31

Mobile : +34 617 46 85 03

Calle Juan Cabrero, 18 Local AA

Zaragoza 50007

GARCÍA MARQUÉS Y SEÑORA AL
HOSPITAL DE VILLAFRANCA DEL BIERZO,
JUNIO DE 1955" . ("Mr. Dionisio García
Marqués and his wife to the Hospital of
Villafranca del Bierzo, June 1955") which
confirms it was a donated piece, adding
significant historical and devotional value. Rising
from this base is a solid stem with a beautifully
decorated central knop, leading to the cup which
is also adorned with palmettes in relief and a
deeply chiselled upper frieze of floral motifs.

The lid, which fits perfectly into the cup, is
crowned by an openwork Latin cross and follows
the same ornamental language. The interior of the
ciborium is in excellent condition,
mirror-polished and completely clean, ideal for
immediate liturgical use. Despite its age, there is
no wear to the gilding or dents, and the relief
work remains sharp. The total weight of the
piece, 846 grams, confirms its solid silver
content, supported by the hallmarks. Among them
are the characteristic hallmark of Pedro Durán e
Hijos, and the official Spanish silver marks from
the same period.

A piece of this kind stands out not only for its
majesty and elegance but also for its large
capacity, making it highly practical for
celebrations with high attendance. Its
preservation is exceptional, with no cracks, no
looseness and a solid structure. The warm-toned
gilding retains its intensity and shine with no
oxidation or loss. It is a clear example of the high
standards that characterized the Madrid workshop
during the 1950s and is a highly sought-after
piece among parishes, collectors and lovers of
religious silverwork.

A magnificent opportunity to acquire a solid,
devotional and timelessly beautiful object. This
ciborium would be perfect for reintroducing into
the Church or for use in a parish.

Dimensions: $26 \times 14 \times 12$ cm ($10.24 \times 5.51 \times 4.72$ in). Weight: 846 g.

History of Pedro Durán

Pedro Durán Morales was one of the great names in Spanish silverwork at the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. He founded his workshop in Madrid in 1886 and, from the very beginning, focused on producing high-quality silver pieces for a bourgeois and ecclesiastical clientele. Thanks to his mastery of repoussé, chasing and fine engraving, his firm quickly gained notoriety, creating both utilitarian and decorative objects as well as large-scale religious commissions. Throughout his career, Pedro Durán stood out for incorporating historicist styles into his work, such as Neo-Renaissance, Neo-Baroque and later Art Deco, always maintaining a personal hallmark of technical excellence and ornamental richness.

After the founder's death in the 1930s, the company became known as Pedro Durán e Hijos, continuing the same tradition of quality and elegance. During this second phase, between the 1940s and 1970s, the workshop remained specialized in religious pieces, including monstrances, ciboria, chalices, reliquaries and other liturgical elements, often made for parishes and religious hospitals. The pieces from this period are usually hallmarked with the distinctive emblem of the house: a two-handled Greek urn inside a hexagon.

The company also took part in exhibitions and trade fairs, consolidating its reputation as a synonym of quality and tradition.

In the second half of the twentieth century, Durán diversified its production toward high-end jewelry, contemporary design and art auctions,

founding Durán Arte y Subastas in 1969. Today, the brand remains active as Durán Joyeros, though it is no longer involved in the artisanal production of religious silverware that earned its fame. The history of Pedro Durán is, therefore, the story of a firm that knew how to combine tradition, technique and artistic sensibility in each of its creations, leaving a lasting legacy in the world of Spanish silversmithing.

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