Small Apothecary Mortar From Serpentine, 18th Century, In Search Of Poison



580 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Semi precious stone

Diameter : 9cm

Height : 5cm

Description

A rare object to find, which fits in hand, shape of a small bowl with a pouring spout, it is a mortar for special medicines, because it is made from Serpentine stone, monolith. This fine stone, during 17th century, had a reputation for changing color upon contact with any poison. Here is a text taken from the Encyclopedia, from 1751:"Serpentine is found especially in Zoeblitz in Misnia; this is why it is sometimes called marmor zoeblicense. The ease with which this stone is cut means that an infinite number of vessels, boxes, writing desks, etc. can be made from it, which can be transported very far. It was formerly a prejudice to believe that serpentine had the virtue of detecting poisons; but no one should be advised to try it out....." Good condition, some minor chips on spout, some glass

Dealer

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and scratches, no cracks, no breakage. The bronze pestle is only decorative. Dimensions: Height: 5 cm x 9 cm. Weight: 250gr.For USA Friends and Customers:we would not accept to ship airmail export without a good communication, concerning tax and custom forms. This item is for immediate purchase, payable by credit card or paypal. - eclectic - antique dealers since 1970, Siret: FR 24.430113233. Invoice and Certificate are attached to each of our shipments.