



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

French School Circa 1910, Presumed Portrait Of Ignacy Jan Paderewski (?)



950 EUR

Signature : ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE vers 1910

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 45 cm

Height : 52 cm

Description

FRENCH SCHOOL about 1910
PORTRAIT
PRESUMED OF IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI
(?) Charcoal drawing on paper 52 x 45 cm / 20.5 x 17.7 inches, with frame 58 x 51 cm / 22.8 x 20 inches
PROVENANCE France, private collection
The early twentieth century marked a period of profound transformations and experimentation in the arts, coinciding with equally significant developments in the musical sphere. Within this historical context, the figure of Ignacy Jan Paderewski holds a singular position. By the dawn of the century, his international renown had reached its peak, especially in the cultural heart of Europe--Paris--where he frequently performed to great acclaim. A remarkably gifted and charismatic individual, Paderewski consistently

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attracted the attention of prominent artists. His portraits were created by notable painters such as Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Louis Frédéric Schützenberger, and Charles Giron. This wide array of portrayals reflects the multifaceted nature of his persona--from dazzling virtuoso to profoundly sensitive human being. The present charcoal portrait stands out through the expressive drama captured in the subject's gaze, echoing the emotional intensity characteristic of Paderewski's musical performances. Despite the faint traces of a signature, the strong resemblance to numerous documentary photographs and painted likenesses attests to the professional skill of the artist, who may have worked from memory or in close proximity to the musician. Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was not only an outstanding pianist and composer but also a statesman who played a pivotal role in the restoration of Poland's independence. His musical career, launched by a triumphant debut in Paris in 1888, swiftly turned into a global phenomenon. Thanks to his virtuosic technique and inimitable style, Paderewski drew unprecedented audiences worldwide, including solo recitals at the famed Carnegie Hall in New York. Beyond his musical achievements, he emerged as a skilled diplomat and politician, managing to rally international support for the cause of Polish sovereignty and serving as both Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In this regard, portraits of the musician gain additional significance--they become visual testimonies of an era in which art and politics were intimately intertwined. Thus, this portrait represents not only an artistic treasure but also an important historical document, offering insight into the complex personality of Ignacy Jan Paderewski through the prism of his multifaceted career and the epoch he helped shape.