



## Large 19th-century Linen Sheet, Richly Hand-embroidered With Monogram "ab"

450 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Linen

Length : 320

Width : 270

### Description

Magnificent top sheet in pure high-quality linen, where the fineness of the fabric is combined with exceptionally detailed embroidery: the hem, running its full 270 cm length, is entirely hand-embroidered! The large monogram "AB", hand-stitched at the center of the hem, reflects a personalized commission, most likely intended for a distinguished family. The remarkable workmanship and the density of the decoration suggest production from specialized workshops, possibly linked to the French colonial networks in Indochina, renowned for the delicacy of their stitches. Historical note: French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos) was officially established in 1887, after decades of military conquest and economic settlement. Beyond large-scale crops (rice, rubber, tea, coffee), the

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colony developed artisan workshops dedicated to export to the metropole. Fine Vietnamese embroidery and lace, already locally renowned, were adapted to European taste. French missionaries and merchants encouraged the creation of embroidery schools and sewing workshops, where young Vietnamese women were trained in techniques blending local traditions with French models. These productions supplied the luxury household linen market in France. A sheet such as this may thus be the result of the encounter between French savoir-faire and Indochinese craftsmanship, reflecting a lesser-known chapter of colonial history. Condition report: no wear at the center (likely very little used); a few small scattered yellow-brown spots; no major defects to report.