



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Late 19th-century Autographed Photograph Of The Russian Aristocrat Kleinmichel, Lafayette Studi



600 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Description

Autographed XIXth century photograph - uncertain between albumen and silver print - mounted in an oval passe-partout and framed. The portrait depicts a lady of high birth, dressed in an elegant gown, adorned with a star-shaped brooch, and coiffed according to the aristocratic fashion of the late 19th century. At the bottom of the image appears a handwritten dedication in French: «Votre vieille amie / V. Kleinmichel», which strongly suggests the identity of a member of the noble Kleinmichel family, connected to the Russian imperial court. A blind stamp, placed beneath the oval, bears the prestigious motto of the Order of the Garter, «Honi soit qui mal y pense», accompanied by a royal crown. This photograph is the work of the Lafayette studio, whose signature appears on the right side of the

Dealer

Adele de Luca

Généraliste

Tel : +39 06 96006008

Mobile : +39 3343101057

Via Merulana 68

Rome, Italie 00185

portrait. Founded in Dublin in 1880 by James Stack Lauder, known as Lafayette, the studio quickly established itself as one of the most illustrious portrait ateliers in Europe. As early as 1887, James Lafayette was invited to Windsor to photograph Queen Victoria and was granted the title of Photographer Royal. The opening of the Bond Street branch in London in 1897 sealed the international reputation of the house, which immortalized sovereigns, aristocrats, diplomats, and celebrities from all over the world. As mentioned at the beginning, the identification of the process remains uncertain: the period - circa 1890 - the glossy surface and sepia tone point towards an albumen print, while certain material characteristics could also correspond to a silver gelatin bromide print. As for the condition, it is very good: the moisture stain visible on the passe-partout does not affect the photograph in any way. Dimensions: with frame 24 × 31 cm; oval photograph 13 × 19 cm.