



Scalloped Tray Decorated With Antique Figures, Tribute Scene, Italy, 19th Century



180 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Painted wood

Length : 45 cm

Width : 29 cm

Description

A tray with scalloped edges decorated with a lively scene of figures dressed in antique style against a backdrop of a classical landscape punctuated by idealized nature and the outline of palatial architecture. A group of seven figures in expressive poses, heirs to a rhetoric of gestures dear to 17th-century classical painting, composes a scene that we have not identified precisely but which describes a scene of tribute or usury. A richly dressed figure in a turban dominates the scene, signaling to a pair of shepherds, kneeling reverently, to address four male figures seated around a table improvised on a piece of ruin. To the far left of the scene, a man in a purple toga is meticulously drawing up a register, in which he will no doubt record the pearl necklace presented by the shepherdess, and no doubt the pair of

Dealer

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sheep seen to the right of the image.

Pawnbrokers? Moneylenders? Tribute addressed to a prince? The character in the foreground, his head turned towards the conscientious secretary, sitting on merchandise and leaning on a well-filled bag, as well as the silver coins piled up on the improvised table, seem in any case to indicate a very lucrative activity. A curious scene, depicted with a charming and popular naivety, in bright colors where reds and yellows rub shoulders with a colder chromaticism in shades of blue, for a very convincing result from a decorative point of view. There are cracks, in the upper and lower right parts; the readability of the image does not suffer, the colors are fresh, and the object remains resistant.