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Engraved Mother-of-pearl Shell, Convict Work, Nouméa, New Caledonia, 19th Century, Ref1147

430 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Nacre

Diameter : 11 cm.

Height : 10,4 cm.

Description

Antique mother-of-pearl shell, polished and engraved in intaglio, this is an old convict's work from New Caledonia, circa 1880-1900. Made with finesse (see photo), it is decorated with an angel (Cupid) and two village scenes, inscribed "Nouméa." Period: second half of the 19th century. In very good overall condition, it is thick, with no dents, little wear, and a beautiful period patina. History: From the opening of the penal colony in 1864 in New Caledonia, shell engraving was practiced clandestinely by convicts. Initially forbidden, it was officially authorized in 1886. The prison administration provided the tools and materials; the prisoners did the rest. Convicts created true works of art (some pieces are known and the sculptor identified). Diameter: 11 cm. Height: 10.4 cm. Weight: 296

Dealer

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