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# Rare Engraved Wrought Iron Tobacco Box - France/germany - Early 17th Century



400 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 7 cm

Width : 4 cm

## Description

This small oval wrought iron box is entirely handcrafted, fashioned from thin sheets of iron that were hammered and joined while hot. The surface displays a uniform patina as well as traces of wear and oxidation characteristic of early modern iron objects. Lid and decoration: The perfectly oval lid is richly engraved with geometric patterns composed of crosshatching, rectangles, and vertical and horizontal lines. This design evokes either a stylized architectural motif or an ornamental pattern similar to the latticework or half-timbering structures common in the decorative arts of the 16th and 17th centuries. The engraving, rather naive but regular, appears to have been done with a simple burin or metal point, consistent with the work of a folk workshop. Structure and mechanism: The box has

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a small internal hinge pin, forged as a single piece with the lid. Two discreet lateral rivets secure the iron band forming the side. The interior is bare, without lining, and shows natural, ancient oxidation. The closure system, consisting of a tab and a corresponding opening, is typical of small, pre-industrial utilitarian boxes. Probable function: Although its exact function remains uncertain, this type of box could have been used to contain: powders or precious substances, small tools or needles, personal items (amulet, seal, coins), or even kindling materials (tow, tinder).