



Important Bronze Seal - Sigillum Comitatus Namurcensis Belgium, 19th Century

850 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Diameter : 8 cm



Description

Important bronze seal - Sigillum Comitatus Namurcensis

Belgium, 19th century - Neo-Gothic historicist style

Diameter: approx. 8 cm

Large institutional bronze seal, produced in the 19th century in a Neo-Gothic historicist style, faithfully inspired by the medieval great seal of the County of Namur.

Description

The central field depicts a mounted rider moving to the left, his right hand raised in a gesture of authority, oath, or justice, riding a walking horse.

This imagery is characteristic of medieval sovereign equestrian seals, symbolizing comital power and judicial authority.

The scene is enclosed by a Gothic-style Latin

Dealer

Art Classique

curiosités, art premier et Asiatique

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inscription:

SIGILLUM · COMITATUS · NAMURCENSIS

("Seal of the County of Namur").

The outer border is decorated with a ring of finely modelled human busts, each slightly individualized. These likely represent the Estates, magistrates, or a symbolic political community, reflecting the romantic and historicist interpretation of the Middle Ages typical of the 19th century.

The reverse is plain, featuring a central undulating grip, cast integrally with the seal, indicating an administrative or ceremonial function, rather than personal use.

Historical background

The original seal of the County of Namur dates to the late 12th - early 13th century (circa 1180-1220), during the rule of the medieval Counts of Namur. Equestrian seals were reserved for high-ranking territorial lords and served as powerful emblems of feudal authority.

In the 19th century, during the Neo-Gothic revival and the formation of Belgian national and provincial identity after 1830, many civic and provincial bodies commissioned revival or reinterpretation seals inspired by medieval models, for official, symbolic, or commemorative purposes. This example belongs squarely within that tradition.

Dating and authenticity

Date: 19th century

Material: bronze

Type: historicist institutional seal matrix

Not a medieval original, but a high-quality 19th-century creation based on an authentic medieval model.

Significance

A visually powerful and historically meaningful object, ideal for:

collectors of medieval or Neo-Gothic art, students and enthusiasts of Belgian history, museum-style display, historical interiors, or a cabinet of curiosities.