Candlestick - Central Europe - Circa 1500



4 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Brass

Height : 22,5 cm

Description

This Gothic candlestick was made around the end of the 15th century in Central Europe, a region renowned for its production of objects in copper alloys, particularly brass and bronze. From the 14th century onward, metal candlesticks experienced a resurgence in popularity in Western Europe, gradually spreading first among the clergy and then into wealthy homes, coinciding with improvements in candlemaking techniques. This piece is a prime example of this style, yet it distinguishes itself with a more rectilinear profile and restrained ornamentation, reflecting a quest for balance. Made of gilded brass, the candlestick features a symmetrical stem composed of three nodes, resting on a wide circular base. The base is surmounted by a circular platform that serves as a drip tray,

Dealer

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designed to collect melted wax and protect surrounding surfaces. The socket has two openings, a characteristic feature of medieval candlesticks that allowed for the removal of the burnt end of the candle. This functional detail demonstrates the rational use of wax, an expensive material at the end of the Middle Ages. With the standardization and sophistication of candle production from the 16th century onward, this type of opening tended to disappear. The overall morphology of the stem and base reflects a cross-pollination of influences. It shows both contributions from the Near East, evident in the use of tall, cylindrical or slightly conical bases, and European traditions, particularly those of stake candlesticks, in which the stem is supported by several points. This candlestick thus illustrates the circulation of forms, techniques, and know-how at the end of the Middle Ages, within a context of intense commercial and cultural exchange.