



Antique Ottoman Verge Pocket Watch. Triple Case. Silver. George Prior. England 1804



2 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description

Watch the video on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/PAJ1bRybnLA>

This verge fusee pocket watch for the Ottoman market, with triple case, made in London by George Prior in 1804, represents one of the most refined expressions of English watchmaking intended for the market of the Turkish Empire. Its mere presence conveys that particular balance between oriental aesthetics and British precision that so captivated collectors of the Empire during the nineteenth century. It is difficult to find a specimen so complete, so authentic and so coherent in all its parts, from the two inner cases in solid silver to the superb outer tortoiseshell case decorated with silver applications. The feeling it produces when holding it is simply magnificent, since few watches maintain with

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such dignity the passing of more than two centuries.

The dial, with Ottoman numerals, preserves the elegant and calm style typical of the pieces that Prior destined for his clients in Istanbul and other cities of the Empire. Its hands, delicate and full of character, accompany its original domed glass.

This watch is not only aesthetically beautiful, but it also works correctly, keeping the time properly, a detail much appreciated by collectors, who want antique watches to be complete both in their appearance and in their mechanics.

The movement, signed and numbered 32,762, is a splendid example of London work from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It features a Holtz Floral balance bridge beautifully pierced with a central vase, made with an exquisite level of detail. The structure of the movement stands out for the quality of the engravings and for the beauty of its pillars, which show a visual and technical harmony very characteristic of the Georgian period. The whole offers that double appeal so valued in antique watchmaking, on the one hand, the technical quality of English manufacture, on the other, the ornamental touch expressly designed for Ottoman taste.

The triple case decisively reinforces the collector's value of this watch. The inner case of 50 mm maintains the classic format, the intermediate case of 61 mm combines silver and refinement, and the outer case of 71 mm in tortoiseshell is, quite simply, captivating. It preserves all its studs and a balanced patina that demonstrates its authenticity without losing appeal. The inclusion of an antique key completes the set, adding historical coherence and an extra touch of value for the demanding collector.

This watch is ideal for a serious collection because of its rarity, because of its complete

configuration, because of its technical quality and because it offers a fascinating testimony of the cultural encounter between England and the Ottoman Empire. Each detail invites contemplation, each element adds to the history of the whole and each glance recalls that we are before a piece that appears very few times on the market. It is a watch capable of enhancing any collection or of becoming an exceptional gift, full of meaning and beauty.

Measurements: inner case 50 mm, intermediate case 61 mm, outer case 71 mm.

History of George Prior

George Prior was one of the London watchmakers most influential in the production specifically directed to the Ottoman market between the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The demand for English watches in the Ottoman Empire grew in an extraordinary way during this period, driven by the reputation of London as a watchmaking capital. Prior understood this market like few others, adapting dials, numerals and ornaments to oriental aesthetic preferences.

His production stood out for mechanical precision, the quality of his engravings and the decorative richness of his movements, which made him a familiar name among Ottoman merchants and dignitaries. His watches travelled widely and today are considered essential pieces for understanding the relationship between British watchmaking and Ottoman taste.

In the current market, Ottoman watches by George Prior, especially those that preserve their original cases, are highly appreciated by top level collectors. Acquiring one of them means incorporating into a collection an authentic fragment of watchmaking history and of the cultural dialogue between two worlds.

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