



The Pinnacle Of Victorian Metalwork: Narrative Toleware Tray Attributed To H. Meeson

1 600 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Painted metal

Description

This monumental tray stands as a rare survivor from the golden age of English decorative metalware. Measuring 76.5 cm, it represents the highest tier of production from the mid-19th-century Birmingham workshops.

The Heritage of Toleware

This tray is a prime example of Toleware--iron transformed through the "japanning" process into a luxurious, lustrous art medium. Each layer of lacquer was hand-applied and stoved, resulting in a durable, deep-black finish that enhances the brilliance of the oil-painted scene. Such trays were the ultimate luxury in mid-Victorian homes, showcasing both the wealth and refined taste of their owners.

Artist Focus: H. Meeson

The complexity of the figurative painting, "Esther

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"Accusing Haman", is extraordinary. The fluid brushwork, theatrical lighting, and meticulous rendering of the banqueting scene suggest the hand of H. Meeson. His work is distinguished by its academic approach to narrative painting, a quality clearly visible in the emotional intensity of the figures. A distinctive "M" flourish serves as a further hallmark of his involvement.

Uniqueness

Compared to ubiquitous floral trays, this historical/biblical subject is an exceptional rarity. The gilded borders remain vibrant, framing a scene of museum-grade quality. This is an investment-grade piece for any collection of English antiques.

Please study the accompanying photographs carefully, as they form an integral part of this description. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them. The item will be shipped with full tracking and insurance. It is important to note that shipping costs include labour, packaging and postage.