



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Charles Robert Ashbee (1863-1942) Guild Of Handicraft Ltd., London Porringer (porridge Bowl).

5 400 EUR



Signature : Charles Robert Ashbee

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Length : 18,5

Diameter : 10,8

Height : 4,5

Description

Charles Robert Ashbee (1863-1942) Guild of Handicraft Ltd., London Porringer (porridge bowl), 1903-1904 Single-handled porringer in sterling silver (925/1000) with a raised, elegantly curved wire handle set with a turquoise cabochon (turquoise or chrysoprase). The bowl is circular and restrained in form, finished with a fully planished (hammered) surface. No applied ornament. Hallmarks: crowned leopard's head (London), lion passant (sterling silver), "G of H Ltd" (Guild of Handicraft Limited), date letter "h" for 1903-1904. The piece was produced during the Guild's high period, circa 1900-1905. Charles Robert Ashbee founded the Guild of Handicraft in 1888 as a cooperative workshop combining craftsmanship, social reform ideals, and design innovation. The Guild

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produced furniture, metalwork, jewellery, and silver. Ashbee's designs consciously departed from Victorian ornamentation. Characteristic features include rounded volumes, elongated wire handles, and sparingly used cabochon stones. The visible hammer marks are not decorative but express the integrity of handwork. The slight irregularity of the stone setting reflects the Arts and Crafts preference for natural materials. The porringer is one of the Guild's key silver forms. Typical characteristics include the planished surface, elevated wire handle, discreet gemstone accent, and strict reduction to function and material. The present example fully corresponds to these criteria. Works by the Guild were exhibited internationally, including in Vienna, Munich, Paris, and Düsseldorf, influencing the Wiener Werkstätte and later workshop-based design movements of the early 20th century. Comparable examples are held in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; the Milwaukee Art Museum; Cheltenham Art Gallery; and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Institutional representation confirms the art-historical relevance of this model. Guild of Handicraft porringers are highly collectible internationally. Literature: Alan Crawford, C.R. Ashbee: Architect, Designer & Romantic Socialist, Yale University Press, 2005. Elizabeth Cumming / Wendy Kaplan, The Arts and Crafts Movement, Thames & Hudson, 1991. Further reference examples are accessible through the online collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt. A refined example of British Arts and Crafts silver from the Guild's mature period.