



## Romanesque Mask - Cornice Element. Oise Valley.



3 500 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Stone

Height : 18cm

### Description

Romanesque mask - Cornice element. Oise Valley. Male mask, a cornice element from a Romanesque church. The almond-shaped face narrows markedly toward a slim, prominent chin. This "inverted triangle" structure is typical of certain regional schools, in Artois or the Oise Valley. The eyes are the most striking feature: almond-shaped and slightly bulging, they are defined by sharply cut, hollowed eyelids. The absence of a carved pupil suggests an intentional hieratic effect. The hair is rendered in a graphic, geometric manner: parallel vertical incisions form a straight fringe, while at the sides the hair follows the contour of the skull, separated from the face by a slight ridge evoking a headband. These features link the mask to productions from the Oise Valley around the mid-12th century. The

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typology of this mask helps refine its origin: it is probably a Beauvaisine cornice element, an architectural feature that spread through the Oise Valley from the second quarter of the 12th century onward. In the first phase, the arches are thick and the masks bulky; then, by the second quarter of the 12th century, the arcading becomes more slender and the faces more hieratic and less grotesque. If our mask is the heir to the cornice masks of Villers-Saint-Paul, it shows a more advanced character: the more elaborate treatment of the eyes and the systematic rendering of the hair with parallel striations are markers of stylistic maturity. This piece is a remarkable milestone in transitional sculpture in the lower Oise Valley around the mid-12th century. Full file available on request.