



A Silvered Bronze Life-cast Of A Snake



1 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Length : 11 cm

Width : 9 cm

Description

A Silvered Bronze Life-Cast of a Snake

Bronze with copper alloy, traces of silver
Italy 19th century

11 × 9 cm (4 1/3 × 3 1/2 in.)

The appearance of the alloy and the surface treatment of this grass snake are very close to those of a brass serpent held in the *Kunstammer*, no. 5907, at the *Kunsthistorisches Museum* in Vienna, described as a life cast of Paduan origin from the late sixteenth century, in a tin-and-lead alloy with traces of silvering.

Although the present serpent, also silvered, though of a thick cast in a copper alloy, clearly refers to such Paduan casts, caution requires that it be regarded as a late Italian homage, probably from the second third of the nineteenth century. Bronze serpents of this type, as was noted of a

Dealer

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Paduan serpent of similar kind in the catalogue of the exhibition *Natur und Antike in der Renaissance*, 'depart far from the naturalistic spirit of the Paduan humanist cabinets. They may therefore have served as paperweights.'
See *Natur und Antike in der Renaissance*, Frankfurt, 1986.