



Rare Gouache Miniature - Attempted Channel Crossing By De Rozier On June 15, 1785



1 250 EUR

Signature : Carlet ?

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gouache

Width : 7

Height : 10

Description

Rare gouache miniature -Pilâtre de Rozier's attempt to cross the English Channel on June 15, 1785.Beautiful and rare miniature ingouache on laid paper, framed by a gilded fillet with gold leaf,depicting the tragic flight of the Tour de Calais, the so-called"during Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozière's historic attempt to cross the English Channel.Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and Pierre-Ange Romain, on June 15, 1785.The composition is faithfullyby Charles Eschard (1748-1810), published in Paris by Le Champion inParis by Le Champion in 1785. On the left is the crenellated tower of Calaiswith a red flag and a crowd of spectators in Louis XVI costume.in Louis XVI costume; in the center, the stormy sea with its swirling wavesand boats; against the cloudy sky, La Rozière in all its decorative

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Tel : 06 23 13 04 02

5 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville

Réalmont 81120

splendor green-and-brown-striped envelope, finely detailed gilded nacelle with a floating blue ribbon at her side, a poetic touch added by the artist. The execution is of great finesse: the figures are treated in the manner of the small 18th-century masters of 18th-century vedute, the rendering of the clouds and sea testifies to the artist's mastery of the gouache medium, and the gold-leaf framing, characteristic of late 18th-century cabinet miniatures from the late 18th century, lends the whole the appearance of a fine collector's item. Note that this flight of June 15, 1785 has gone down in history as the first fatal air accident: Pilâtre de Rozier and Romain perished in the crash of their aircraft, a few kilometers from their point of departure, becoming the first victims of human aerial adventure. On the reverse of the work, a handwritten annotation in ink on period paper authenticates and clarifies the subject with overwhelming sobriety: "Essai de la traversée de l'English Channel on June 15, 1785 by Pilâtre de Rozier and Romain. Wimille (Pas de Calais) where they perished." This contemporary inscription, probably in the hand of a witness or collector of the period, adds a rare documentary and emotional dimension to this piece, and constitutes a precious element of provenance.

10 × 7 cm image only
Late 18th or early 19th century
early 19th century (circa 1785-1810)
Signature J. Carlet ? lower left
Presented in a small natural wood. An exceptional, precisely dated aeronautical iconography, rare in miniature format, enriched by a handwritten annotation from the period.