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## Ceremonial Planter, Italy, Circa 1860



16 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gilted wood

Diameter : 65

Height : 180

### Description

This ceremonial planter, crafted in carved, ebonized, and richly gilded wood, eloquently reflects the Italian decorative tradition of the 19th century, in which historicist eclecticism draws from both the late Baroque and Neo-Renaissance repertoires. The planter features an architectural structure, with a slender shaft composed of three facets, decorated with reserves adorned with stylized Neo-Gothic motifs such as trilobed cartouches and architectural frames highlighted with gilded lines, incorporating large stylized leaves in the lower sections. At mid-height, a wide circular bowl forms a platform intended to receive or support a decorative element (pot or floral arrangement). It is accentuated by a frieze of gilded gadroons. Above, a fluted knop is surmounted by a ring decorated with finely

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chased points and floral garlands, supporting another gadrooned bowl. The top of the planter takes the form of an openwork basket, conceived like a Gothic crown. The cut-outs, composed of trilobed arcatures and flamboyant motifs, are enhanced with a red polychrome background. This contrast between the radiant gold and the deep red heightens the theatrical dimension of the object and recalls certain liturgical furnishings or ceremonial pieces inspired by religious architecture. It rests on a polygonal base with chamfered sides, incorporating three basins designed to hold flowers. Oval medallions in relief depict an idealized female profile suggestive of an allegory, rendered in the manner of antique cameos and framed by gilded foliate scrolls. The ensemble demonstrates a pronounced taste for polychromy and contrast, characteristic of certain Italian productions, particularly in regions such as Lombardy or Tuscany, where 19th-century craftsmen excelled in the art of carved and gilded wood. Beyond its utilitarian function, this planter appears above all as a prestige object, intended to adorn a refined interior and to interact with other decorative pieces within an eclectic setting. Through its ornamental richness, hierarchical composition, and the quality of its execution, it perfectly illustrates a period in which the decorative object became a true aesthetic statement, at the crossroads of architecture, sculpture, and the decorative arts.