Tantalus, Liqueur Carafes, Bottle Racks - Victorian Era



680 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : cm. 28

Height : cm. 15

Depth : cm. 15

Description

Tantalus, liqueur cabinet, bottle rack - Victorian eraA magnificent tabletop tantalus of exceptional elegance, crafted in the late 19th century, embodying the refined Victorian taste for objects used in the ritual of spirits. A tantalus is a small wooden cabinet containing two or three decanters. Its distinctive feature is the presence of a lock and a key. The purpose was to prevent unauthorized persons from drinking the contents (specifically, "servants and minor children"), while still allowing them to be displayed. The name refers to the unfulfilled temptations of the Greek mythological figure Tantalus.First patented in 1879 by John Betjemann, The structure, crafted from fine polished wood with rich chiseled brass accents, houses a pair of superb hand-cut crystal bottles, complete with their original faceted

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stoppers.A distinctive feature of the cabinet is the refined, hinged brass arch at the top, designed as both a closure and a support, a detail that gives the Tantalus an exclusive and striking character. The bottles, embellished with medallions engraved with "Whisky" and "Cognac" suspended by delicate silver chains, reflect the understated luxury of European aristocratic residences and gentlemen's clubs of the era.The extraordinary crystal craftsmanship, rich in deep geometric cuts and plays of light, harmonizes perfectly with the warmth of the wood and the brilliance of the brass, creating a piece of great decorative presence.Period: late 19th centuryDimensions: 28 x 15 cm - height 29 cm Origin: England Materials: cut crystal, fine wood, brass, and silver-plated metal Condition: excellent condition, with slight signs of age that attest to its authenticity and historical charmA rare and sophisticated piece, ideal for enhancing a formal living room, a library, or an antique collection dedicated to the world of spirits and the art of entertaining.