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Antique Neoclassical Gilt Silver Chalice In The French Empire Style. Spain, Circa 1820



3 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description

Antique and elegant gilt silver chalice made in Spain circa 1820, created following the neoclassical aesthetic influenced by the French Empire style, which had such a strong impact on European religious silverwork during the early 19th century. It is a very balanced piece in its proportions and especially attractive due to the richness of its symbolic decoration, executed with finely worked reliefs and gilding of excellent appearance. The chalice retains a very clean and harmonious appearance, with the interior of the cup fully gilded and very well preserved.

The circular base features relief decoration arranged through alternating medallions with floral garlands and vegetal motifs. One of the

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medallions depicts clusters of grapes, a Eucharistic symbol of the consecrated wine, while another shows wheat sheaves related to the liturgical bread. The third medallion appears to represent an altar with the Blessed Sacrament, although the scene cannot be seen with complete clarity. The entire composition is surrounded by delicate garlands and flowers in relief that provide depth and movement to the piece without overloading the design.

The central knop maintains the same decorative language, with floral ornamentation and geometric details inspired by French models from the Napoleonic period. The subcup is decorated with three religious medallions linked to the Passion of Christ: the three nails, the spear and sponge, and finally the cross among clouds, a symbol related to the Resurrection. These elements are framed by moldings and reliefs of very good quality, executed with notable precision for a liturgical piece of this period.

The chalice retains its hallmarks, although they are currently partially worn and do not allow a complete reading. For this reason, the exact dating cannot be guaranteed with absolute precision, although by typology, decoration, and style it clearly belongs to the first decades of the 19th century. The exterior and interior gilding remain in very good condition, with moderate and even wear consistent with age and normal liturgical use. The structure is solid and stable, with no visible deformations or major damage.

This chalice displays a very complete symbolic decoration, with Eucharistic references and symbols of the Passion of Christ that are uncommon on medium-sized pieces. The excellent condition of both the interior and exterior gilding allows its presence and

authenticity to be fully appreciated. Its clear influence from the French Empire style also makes it a particularly interesting piece within Spanish religious silverwork from the first third of the 19th century.

Due to its typology, size, and decorative quality, it is a highly interesting piece both for a religious silver collection and for liturgical use. It is also an ideal piece for a priest, a private chapel, or even as an ordination chalice because of its elegance, symbolism, and excellent presence.

Measurements: Height: 25.3 cm (10 in). Cup diameter: 7.5 cm (2.95 in). Base diameter: 13.5 cm (5.31 in). Weight: 582 g. (20.53 oz.)