



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Rare Reliquary Arm, Repoussé Silver-plated Metal, France--16th Or Early 17th Century



7 200 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 8

Height : 25

Depth : 7

Description

The veneration of relics in the Catholic faith reached its peak during the Middle Ages, particularly with the rise of pilgrimages, and continued largely into the 19th century. The production of reliquaries - as objects of devotion and prestige for religious communities - therefore increased throughout the Middle Ages to meet this growing demand. Here we have a rare example of a reliquary arm: the relic was originally housed behind a glass medallion decorated with a stylised garland of foliage, tied with ribbons to form a wreath. This type of oval opening can be seen, for example, on the reliquary arm of Saint Marcoul housed in the church of Archelange (Jura), this time without the garland. As for the clothing that adorns our reliquary arm, it forms a drape with wide folds like that of a

Dealer

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16th-century reliquary arm housed in the parish church of Saint-Geniès (Occitanie). The whole piece rests on a more recent blackened wooden base. Objects of this type date back to the 13th century, such as the arm of Saint Landélin, which is housed in the church at Crespin (Nord). There are also similar objects made of wood, and therefore of a more common design, such as the reliquary arm of Saint Druon housed in the Church of Saint-Marcel in Cottenchy (Somme) ; it is made of gilded wood and features a stylised oval opening through which the relic is visible. A true masterpiece of goldsmithing, our reliquary arm thus embodies the enduring tradition of relic veneration. Its shape, drapery and stylised medallion make it a remarkable example amongst the various reliquary arms known today.