



Rennes, 1740-1742, Michel-eloy Letailleur, Pair Of Louis XV Candlesticks In Solid Silver



3 950 EUR

Signature : Michel Eloy Letailleur (1714-1785)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : 14,2 cm

Height : 23,3 cm

Description

This pair of silver candlesticks, crafted in Rennes in 1740-1741 by silversmith Michel Éloi Letailleur, features an elegant, architectural silhouette characteristic of the 18th century. Each candlestick rests on a broad, slightly undulating hexagonal base, accented by successive moldings. The slender, baluster-shaped shaft is punctuated by several bulges, rings, and molded projections that lend it a harmonious balance. The upper section culminates in a hexagonal cup designed to hold the candle. The piece as a whole is distinguished by the simplicity of its decoration, the finesse of its proportions, and the beautiful sheen of antique silver. Inside the base are four clearly legible hallmarks: the master silversmith's mark, the guild letter, the charge mark, and even the discharge mark. Baptized in Rennes on June

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Affligem 1790

14, 1714, Michel-Éloy Le Tailleur belonged to an ancient dynasty of goldsmiths whose activity has been documented since the mid-16th century. From generation to generation, the Le Tailleur family practiced their craft in Rennes, while some family members also worked in the colonies. Michel-Éloy was the son of Jean-Éloy Le Tailleur, himself a master goldsmith from Rennes, and Guillemette Roullain. He began an apprenticeship in 1725 with the goldsmith Jean-Pierre Buchet, completed his training as a journeyman in his father's workshop, and then embarked on a tour of France that took him to Paris and Besançon, among other places. On November 11, 1739, following his father's retirement, he was admitted as a master goldsmith in Rennes. His hallmark combines the letters M and T, a crowned fleur-de-lis, and an ermine, the emblem of Brittany. Based on Rue de Bordeaux, Michel-Éloy held several positions within the goldsmiths' guild: he was elected provost in 1744, then hallmark keeper in 1748. In 1740, he married Marie-Françoise Burnel, with whom he had a son, Nicolas-Marie, who in turn trained as a silversmith. Nicolas-Marie worked for some twenty years in Île-de-France and the colonies. Serving as dean of the guild from 1774 onward, Michel-Éloy retired from the trade in 1780. He died in Rennes on March 3, 1785, at the age of seventy, leaving behind the memory of a highly regarded craftsman and the legacy of a family deeply connected to the history of Rennes goldsmithing. Total weight: 908 g.