



South Arabian Funerary Stele - Arabian Peninsula, Pre-islamic Yemen, 1st-3rd Centuries

900 EUR



Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Stone

Width : 23.5 cm

Height : 18.5 cm

Depth : 4.5 cm

Description

South Arabian funerary stele - Arabian Peninsula, pre-Islamic Yemen, 1st-3rd centuries Very rare
South Arabian funerary stele carved from sand-colored hard stone, carved in bas-relief, from the Arabian Peninsula (present-day Yemen), dating from around the 1st-3rd centuries CE (or possibly earlier), during the pre-Islamic period. This elegant rectangular stele (23.5 × 18.5 cm; thickness: 4.5 cm) depicts two stylized figures, shown from the front and holding hands, in a manner characteristic of South Arabian funerary art. Above the figures is an inscription engraved in the ancient South Arabian alphabet (Musnad), likely identifying the deceased or listing their names. Stelae of this type are among the most iconic artifacts of the ancient kingdoms of South Arabia, which were contemporaneous

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with the Roman Empire. They bear witness to a unique artistic tradition, characterized by the stylization of faces and bodies, as well as by the importance accorded to the funerary inscription. This part of the ancient world saw the emergence of several kingdoms: Qataban, Saba (Sheba), and Himyar, which built their wealth on desert trade, particularly in frankincense and myrrh. These works have now become particularly rare on the international market. Many have disappeared over the centuries, particularly during periods of iconoclasm, while those preserved in their countries of origin are now protected by laws prohibiting their export. The ancient pieces available on the market come primarily from old collections assembled before current regulations were enacted. This piece comes from a historic French collection and was legally acquired on the French art market at auction. A high-quality archaeological artifact, as rare as it is evocative of the ancient civilizations of Southern Arabia, intended for a discerning collector or an enthusiast of Near Eastern archaeology. Dimensions: 23.5 × 18.5 cm; thickness 4.5 cm. Price excludes shipping costs. Police Registry Ref.: A128. Professional Antique Dealer - Guarantee & peace of mind when purchasing. As a professional antique dealer, I am committed to offering only authentic items that have been carefully selected and are legally marketable. Each piece is chosen for its historical, aesthetic, or collectible value and undergoes a rigorous verification of its provenance. Invoice and Traceability. Each purchase comes with a detailed invoice and a certificate of authenticity, guaranteeing the item's provenance and ensuring complete transparency. Legal Compliance. All items comply with current French and European legislation. Any archaeological items are offered in accordance with the Heritage Code (Articles L.542-1 et seq.). Items that may be subject to specific regulations (cultural artifacts, antiques, items made of specific materials) are sold strictly in accordance with the law. International Buyers.

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