



## Solid Silver Holy Oils Set



6 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

### Description

#### STERLING SILVER HOLY OILS CASKET

Paris, 1702-1703

Louis XIV Period

A rare and important sterling silver Holy Oils Casket, crafted in Paris between 1702 and 1703 during the reign of Louis XIV.

Designed to preserve and transport the sacred oils used in the Catholic liturgy, this exceptional ensemble is conceived in the form of a miniature architectural shrine. It consists of a rectangular casket resting on a moulded plinth base and surmounted by a four-sided pyramidal roof crowned with a small cross.

The casket opens on a rear hinge and retains its original locking mechanism, comprising a delicate silver chain terminating in a sliding pin, a feature that has survived remarkably intact.

### Dealer

#### Collection

Rare & Unusual Objects

Mobile : 0032475266745

Mons 7000

The interior contains its two original cylindrical sterling silver vessels, each fitted with a domed lid surmounted by a cross-shaped finial. They are engraved "OS" (Oleum Sanctum) and "SC" (Sanctum Chrisma), identifying the sacred oils they originally contained.

Both vessels still preserve ancient traces of the Holy Oils, providing a particularly moving testimony to more than three centuries of liturgical use.

The hallmarks allow an exceptionally precise dating. The casket bears Paris hallmarks used between 1702 and 1703, while the small cross displays the marks used on small Paris silverwork between 1704 and 1712. This slight difference most probably reflects an early intervention carried out shortly after the casket was made, without affecting the historical integrity of the ensemble.

Sterling silver Holy Oils caskets from the Ancien Régime are today among the rarest surviving examples of French ecclesiastical silver. Many were destroyed during successive official silver meltings under the Ancien Régime and later during the French Revolution. Complete examples retaining their original casket, both silver vessels and original locking system have consequently become exceptionally scarce.

By virtue of its age, outstanding craftsmanship, remarkable state of preservation and firmly established attribution to early eighteenth-century Parisian silverwork, this casket represents an important example of French ecclesiastical goldsmith's work from the reign of Louis XIV.

#### Condition

Very good overall condition. Complete and apparently free from restoration, retaining its two original silver vessels, original locking chain and authentic traces of historic liturgical use.

#### Expert's Note

The attribution of this casket to Paris is based on the study of its hallmarks by Mr. Bastien Lancelot, CNES-accredited expert in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French goldsmith's work.

His examination identifies the Paris charge and guild hallmarks used between 1702 and 1703, while the cross bears the marks for small Paris silverwork used between 1704 and 1712, indicating a very early modification carried out during the object's working life. This reassignment to the Paris workshops--the foremost centre of French goldsmith's art under Louis XIV--significantly enhances both the historical importance and the desirability of this exceptional Holy Oils Casket.