17th-century Travel Cutlery



4 750 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

Western Europe, circa 1680-1710Forged steel, blackened wood inlaid with silver wire, silver, gilded brass.Red Russian leather case, later (18th century).Knife length: 17.5 cm?A rare and elegant travel set consisting of a straight-bladed, single-edged knife and a two-pronged fork, preserved in their red leather case.The handles, with a polygonal cross-section, are made of blackened wood--likely ebony or a stained precious wood--and entirely adorned with a remarkable design of silver-wire inlays forming delicate interlaced plant motifs punctuated by floral patterns. This highly precise work attests to a particularly refined craftsmanship.The ferrules and caps are made of silver, while the finely turned pommels feature an antique gilding that provides an elegant contrast to the metal parts and

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the silver-plated decoration on the handles.The knife retains its original forged blade, while the fork has two long tines--a characteristic of late 17th-century cutlery, before three- and then four-tine models became widespread during the 18th century. At that time, it was still customary for travelers and people of high social standing to carry their own cutlery in a personal case, as hosts did not always provide cutlery for their guests.The set is presented in an elegant case made of Russian red leather, likely crafted in the 18th century to protect and preserve this cutlery, with which it has long been associated.With its exceptionally fine inlaid decoration, exquisite craftsmanship, and excellent state of preservation, this set stands as a remarkable testament to the aristocratic art of living at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries.Condition: Very good condition. Signs of wear consistent with its age. Antique case with a beautiful patina.