



## Silver And Cobalt Glass Bonbonnière, Wilhelm Hülse, Germany, 19th Century



2 350 EUR

Signature : Wilhelm Hülse, Allemande

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Width : 13 cm

Height : 19 cm

### Description

#### Provenance

This bonbonnière is marked Wilhelm Hülse, a German silver and jewellery firm associated with high-quality silver objects from the late 19th century. The visible marks, including the 800/1000 silver standard and the model number No. 8452, connect the piece with a carefully made production intended for refined table use or cabinet display. As no fully verified biographical information is provided here for the individual silversmith, Wilhelm Hülse should be described with caution as the maker's name or silversmithing house appearing on the object.

#### Description

An elegant hexagonal bonbonnière composed of a silver mount and a deep cobalt-blue glass liner. The object has a clearly architectural

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construction, articulated by vertical panels, stepped mouldings and several pierced ornamental friezes. The lower section is decorated with a repeated arcade gallery, while the central band is designed as a geometric openwork frieze, giving lightness to the otherwise solid silver structure. The slightly pyramidal lid is surmounted by a stylised floral finial.

The exterior panels are enriched with applied silver relief figures representing classical and allegorical subjects inspired by Antiquity. One of the figures is identified as Erato, the muse of lyric and love poetry, placing the decorative programme within a neoclassical vocabulary. The contrast between the dark cobalt glass and the bright silver mount gives the object a strong decorative presence. Stylistically, the piece belongs to the late 19th-century Historicist taste, with clear references to the Empire style and a restrained structural character that may also recall elements of later Biedermeier decorative language.

#### Technique and materials

800/1000 silver and cobalt-blue glass. The silver mount is made from substantial silver sheets, with applied mouldings, pierced galleries, stamped decoration and raised figural appliqués. The construction is solid and carefully finished, showing good material quality and precise workmanship.

#### Dating

Germany, late 19th century. The neoclassical decoration, antique-inspired relief figures, architectural form and combination of pierced silverwork with cobalt-blue glass place this bonbonnière within the Historicist taste of the second half of the 19th century, with references to Empire and Biedermeier decorative vocabulary.

#### Condition

Good overall condition. The piece shows age-related signs of use, including fine surface scratches to the silver and glass, together with a light natural patina to the metal. No major damage is indicated. The object retains its

decorative coherence and strong visual presence.

#### Function and display

This bonbonnière may be displayed as a table silver object, sweetmeat box, decorative casket or cabinet piece. Its compact proportions, deep cobalt glass and classical silver ornament make it suitable for a collection of German silver, Historicist objects or 19th-century decorative arts.

#### Dimensions

height - 19 cm

width - 13 cm