



15th-century Silver Medieval Iconographic Ring Adorned With Two Standing Saints



950 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : dimension intérieure de l'anneau : 18 mm.

Description

A prayer to wear!"Iconographic" rings made of silver or gold and engraved with images of saints were particularly common in the late 14th, 15th, and early 16th centuries and appear to have been an exclusively British type. Religious imagery was often paired with romantic inscriptions, suggesting that these rings might sometimes have served as tokens of love or wedding rings. They often depict the most venerated saints of the Middle Ages: Saint Christopher, Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret, Saint Barbara, and Saint John the Baptist. The choice of saint was likely dictated by local allegiances, membership in brotherhoods dedicated to a particular saint, or the desire to invoke that saint's help for a specific matter. We have not yet identified the saints depicted on the panels of this fluted setting.

Dealer

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Sandra Hindman, of Les Enluminures, has published a very interesting essay and podcast on this type of ring, highlighting their unique nature as portable prayers--more personal and intimate than other devotional objects such as Books of Hours, from which they draw close inspiration. With these rings, one could carry one's Book of Hours on one's hand with similar images. In this essay, she explores how these rings draw inspiration from the illustrations in English Books of Hours, thereby offering their wearers access to prayers carried on the body. Touched and rubbed time and again by their wearers, who would then manipulate them by spinning them on their fingers and putting them on and taking them off to admire the inscriptions, these rings enrich our understanding of the culture of prayer, its rites, and its practices in the late Middle Ages. Link to the essay to learn more:

https://www.lesenluminures.com/usr/documents/press/download_url/117/sandra-hindman-medieval-iconographic-rings.pdf Origin: British Isles Inner diameter of the ring: 18 mm.