



Silk Papal Skullcap Of Pope Pius XI (1857-1939) - Monastic Provenance, Vatican

2 200 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Silk

Diameter : 18 cm

Description

Silk pontifical skullcap of Pope Pius XI (1857-1939) - Monastic provenance, Vatican. Exceptional white silk pontifical skullcap, now patinated in an elegant ivory-beige hue, formerly owned by Pope Pius XI, born Achille Ratti (1857-1939), Supreme Pontiff from 1922 to 1939. This particularly rare piece retains its authentic vintage label, likely affixed in the early 20th century, bearing the inscription in red ink: "Skullcap of His Holiness Pope Pius XI." Made entirely of natural silk, this skullcap consists of eight sewn panels, in keeping with the tradition of pontifical skullcaps. It is reinforced on the inside with a thin piece of chamois leather--a traditional process intended to give the piece its structure--and features an inner lining of fine beige wool. Inside, there is also the handwritten

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number "30," which may correspond to a size or a former inventory number. The skullcap comes from a former French monastery that sold off part of its property and memorabilia at a public auction. It was personally acquired at that auction, along with the purchase invoice, ensuring documented provenance and complete traceability. The item is complete but exhibits several signs of fragility characteristic of antique silk, a phenomenon commonly known as "silk shattering." These fractures result from the natural aging of silk fibers dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Silk, composed primarily of fibroin--a protein responsible for its strength--gradually loses its molecular cohesion over time. Furthermore, the finishes used by manufacturers of that period may have contained acidic substances that accelerated the deterioration of the fibers. These signs of fragility thus attest to the age and authenticity of the textile. An exceptional piece, serving as a historical artifact, a papal memento, and a rare material testament to the pontificate of Pius XI. Since personal items directly attributed to popes are extremely rare on the market, this skullcap is a particularly sought-after piece among collectors of religious art, ecclesiastical history, and papal memorabilia. Dimensions: outer diameter approximately 18 cm. Price excludes shipping costs. Police Registry Ref.: A149. 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

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