



Pair Of Solid Silver Napkin Rings, France, 1840-60, Madame Monsieur

225 EUR



Signature : Inconnu

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : 5 cm

Height : 3,5 cm

Description

Pair of solid silver napkin rings, circa 1850, engraved with "Monsieur" and "Madame," likely a wedding gift....They are beautifully engraved with motifs and are hallmarked with the first-grade silver mark, featuring the head of Minerva. Napkin rings are a relatively recent addition to the history of tableware. Their origin, however, dates back further than was long believed. The most recent research shows that a comparable form was already known in the 18th century in German-speaking countries, where the term "Serviettenband" ("napkin band") appears in texts from that period. This terminology is now the oldest known reference to the object or its predecessor. In France, tangible evidence of napkin rings did not become truly abundant until the first half of the 19th century. Solid silver

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models seem to have appeared around 1815-1820, before experiencing a real boom in the second half of the 19th century. The napkin ring was not intended for formal meals, but for everyday life in wealthy households. Their use was reserved for the family or close circle of friends: each family member had their own ring, often engraved with their initials or first name, allowing them to identify their napkin among several meals. At a time when laundry costs were significant, napkins were not washed after every use. However, during large dinners and receptions, each guest was given a napkin that had been freshly laundered, ironed, and carefully folded; so there was no need for a napkin ring. This pair, crafted around 1850 from solid silver, bears witness to this elegant domestic tradition that has since disappeared. Beyond their craftsmanship, these objects evoke a way of life in which silverware was an integral part of even the most everyday moments at the family table.