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Antique Kazakh Silver Kudagi Zhuzik Matchmaker's Ring Central Asian Ethnic Jewellery



450 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description

An impressive antique Kazakh silver ceremonial double-finger ring, known as a kudagi zhuzik, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century. These remarkably large rings were associated with traditional Kazakh marriage customs. They were presented during the arrangements surrounding a marriage, either to the matchmaker or, according to some authorities, to the mother-in-law. The two adjoining finger hoops on the reverse symbolised the union created by the marriage. Such rings could subsequently be worn for their protective or talismanic properties. The enormous oval face is decorated with applied silver ornament, granulation, twisted and beaded wirework and geometric stamped motifs. Four raised paisley-shaped ornaments surround a central

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ribbed panel. Two large curved cartouches are set with red glass inlays, creating a particularly striking contrast with the silver. The reverse is fitted with two substantial adjoining finger hoops, allowing the ring to be worn across two fingers. A fascinating piece of traditional Central Asian jewellery, impressive both for its unusually large scale and its cultural significance. Face: 8.3×7.2 cm. Condition: Good condition. Comparable examples: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, has a related Central Asian two-finger ring, dated to the late 19th-early 20th century: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/455499> A closely related Kazakh kudagi zhuzik is illustrated and discussed by Michael Backman

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