



"jean Laughs, Jean Cries" -- Candlestick, Circa 1850-80



80 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Metal

Width : 7,5

Height : 11

Depth : 7,5

Description

A double-sided pewter candlestick depicting, alternately, John Laughing and John Weeping--a popular theme illustrating the contrast between joy and sadness. Voltaire popularized this theme with his essay *Jean qui pleure et qui rit* in 1772, inspired by the ancient philosophers Heraclitus (the weeper) and Democritus (the lapper). Both male faces are topped with a wide hat that forms the upper part of the candlestick. The top of the hat features a metal candle holder designed to hold the candle. The entire piece rests on a circular, molded candlestick base. Brown patina, with signs of wear and oxidation.

Dealer

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