



Christ On The Cross - Seal Matrix Of The Church Of Orléans - Sigillography - Crucifixion

220 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Lead



Description

An important metal ecclesiastical seal matrix from the Church of Orléans, likely dating from the 18th century, and a remarkable example of French religious sigillography. Circular in shape and 6 cm in diameter, it features a beautiful intaglio engraving depicting the Crucifixion. At the center of the composition, Christ on the cross, surmounted by the titulus INRI, is flanked by the Virgin Mary and Saint John. At the foot of the cross appears the skull of Adam, while the sun and the moon are placed in the upper register, on either side of the cross. The composition is surrounded by a lengthy Latin inscription engraved in reverse: "SIGILLVM ... INSIGNIS ECCLESIAE AVRELIANENSIS ..." meaning "Seal of the distinguished Church of Orléans," with Aurelianensis referring to Orléans in

Dealer

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Maussane-les-Alpilles 13520

Latin. The die was intended to be pressed into wax to produce a positive relief impression, revealing the scene of the Crucifixion and its peripheral inscription in the correct orientation. It was originally intended to be mounted on a handle or grip, which is now lost. Although it likely dates from the 18th century, its iconography and compositional structure directly reflect the major conventions of medieval ecclesiastical sigillography, particularly in the central depiction of the Crucifixion and the arrangement of the peripheral legend. The reverse side retains an old collector's label bearing the handwritten annotation "Orléans (church)," as well as several old inventory numbers and marks, which provide valuable insights into its collection history. Given its large size, the finesse of its engraving, the richness of its iconography, and its attribution to the Church of Orléans, this die constitutes an interesting example of French religious sigillography. Condition: In excellent condition. Beautiful antique patina and exceptionally fine engraving. Original handle or grip, now missing. Original collector's label and inventory marks preserved on the reverse. Dimensions: Diameter: 6 cm Shipping: ALL SHIPMENTS ARE MADE EXCLUSIVELY VIA DHL EXPRESS.