



Fan, A Gift From An Italian Philologist, C. 1900

1 500 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Length : 21,5 cm

Description

When folded, the double layer of high-quality embossed Japanese paper perfectly captures the black ink and the light washes of color. The frame is imported from Japan and features curved ribs (measuring approximately 20.2 cm in height). This fan is in excellent condition, which is rare for a paper object from this period. A testament to the romantic, academic, and artistic spirit of the turn of the 20th century in Italy. Note: A masterpiece of multilingualism and literature, which makes this fan so remarkable is its linguistic and textual richness. It is most likely a poetic gift addressed to a beloved (echoing a "daughter of Jerusalem"), compiling no fewer than 17 handwritten texts and quotations composed in a multitude of languages and dialects. The strips on the wooden frame

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meticulously indicate the languages used for each section: Identifiable languages on the frame: Lingua Araba (Arabic), Lingua Spagnuola (Spanish), Lingua Tedesca (German), Lingua Inglese (English), Testo Ebraico (Hebrew), Testo Latino (Latin), Lingua Portoghese (Portuguese), Lingua Greca (Greek), and even Italiano (Italian). Literary references: The fan brings together writings from a wide variety of eras and backgrounds. It includes, for example, verses by the Provençal troubadour Raimbaut de Vacqueyras, the lyric poet Leonora Genina Mancini, the ancient poet Lucius Stacusanus, and excerpts in Sicilian by Salvatore di Giacomo. Analysis of Visual Details Obverse ("Italia"): The center proudly displays the word "ITALIA" in stylized calligraphy. Below it, a wide band inscribed in Hebrew is visible, accompanied by its Latin translation from the Song of Songs ("Nigra sum sed formosa, filiae Jerusalem..."). The left side features the title "Ho Sognato" (I Dreamed), accompanied by a romantic poem in Italian, a coat of arms (the Cross of Savoy combined with a crescent and a star), and a small cherub. The reverse side of the fan features the Neapolitan word "PECCHE?" (Why?). It is illustrated on the left by a magnificent ink drawing depicting a tabby cat sleeping in a basket or a net, demonstrating great finesse in its execution.