



## Cloisonné Bronze Jewelry Box, China, 19th-20th Centuries



650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Cloisonne

Length : 13,8 cm

Width : 9,2 cm

Height : 8,5 cm

### Description

Rare Chinese Cloisonné Enamel Jewelry Box - "Five Venomous Creatures" Protective Motif (Wu Dú) - Republican Era / Late Qing Dynasty (c. 1880-1920) DESCRIPTION: A superb, heavy rectangular jewelry box made of cloisonné enamel with a gilded bronze frame, dating from the late Qing Dynasty or early Republic period (circa 1880-1920). The piece stands out for its particularly rare and fascinating iconography, featuring on the lid the traditional motif of "Five Venomous Creatures" (Wu Dú): the scorpion, the centipede, the snake, and the toad, surrounding a red double gourd (Wu Lou) in the center. Far from being malevolent, this highly symbolic design served as a protective talisman and a means of exorcism to ward off illness and evil spirits (particularly during the Dragon Boat

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Antiquaire

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Festival). The object opens with a traditional geometric clasp and reveals an interior entirely lacquered with a smooth blue background enamel. It retains its original removable middle tray, which is also richly decorated with stylized floral scrolls (peonies and lotuses) on a turquoise-blue background. The sides feature magnificent motifs of colorful flowers in vivid hues (red, yellow, white) typical of Jingtai's artistic craftsmanship. The exterior base, finished in smooth turquoise-blue enamel, confirms its authentic and meticulous craftsmanship, with no markings. The object's exceptional weight attests to the great thickness of the bronze used during this period, ensuring a density and quality of workmanship far superior to later productions from the late 20th century. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: Origin: ChinaPeriod: Late 19th - Early 20th century (Late Qing / Republican Era)Technique: Cloisonné enamel on bronzeLength: 13.8 cmProfile (Depth): 9.2 cmHeight: 8.5 cmExceptional weight: 1.264 kgCondition: Beautiful condition for its age. The enamel is well-preserved, with a superb natural patina on the brass edges and hinges. (Please note here any small chips in the enamel or hairline cracks if you notice them with the naked eye).