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# Sarreguemines - 177-piece "papillon" Dinner Service For 24 People - 19th Century



6 800 EUR

Signature : Manufacture de Sarreguemines

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Earthenware

## Description

A substantial polychrome fine earthenware dinner service from the Sarreguemines manufactory--the "Papillon" (Butterfly) pattern--dating from the second half of the 19th century, comprising 177 pieces for 24 place settings.The service features an elegant, naturalistic design incorporating butterflies with colorful wings, dragonflies, wildflowers, foliage, and grasses, arranged in varied compositions against an ivory-white background.The refinement of the motifs, the delicacy of the colors, and the diversity of the arrangements lend the entire collection a remarkable decorative harmony.The edges are accented with a red combed-line motif, which also appears on the handles and the relief elements of the various serving pieces. These pieces are distinguished by their dynamic,

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undulating forms, twisted finials, and elegant, leaf-adorned handles.History of the "Papillon" PatternFounded in 1790, the Sarreguemines manufactory experienced significant growth throughout the 19th century, becoming one of France's major centers for the production of fine earthenware.Beginning in the 1840s, the factory developed extensive dinner services, primarily for a bourgeois clientele whose social customs were shifting toward increasingly sophisticated forms of entertaining.The "Papillon" pattern, which emerged toward the end of the Second Empire, stands as one of the manufactory's greatest successes--ranking alongside the "Rouen" pattern--and is highlighted by the Sarreguemines Earthenware Museum as one of the iconic services of that era.Its design, inspired by the observation of nature, reflects the 19th-century penchant for botanical and entomological imagery, blending precise draftsmanship with the whimsical flair of floral compositions.The significance of such large-scale dinner services is also explained by the evolution of dining customs during this period, most notably the adoption of *service à la russe* (Russian-style service). Unlike the *service à la française*--in which several dishes were presented simultaneously--the *service à la russe* (Russian-style service) introduced the practice of serving courses in succession, requiring plates to be replaced with each new course.The Sarreguemines manufactory produced extensive dinner services for six, twelve, eighteen, or twenty-four guests, comprising multiple sets of plates and a wide variety of serving pieces.This particular service, consisting of 177 pieces for 24 people, perfectly exemplifies the tradition of grand formal dining as practiced in the second half of the 19th century.Detailed composition of the 177 pieces144 plates:72 dinner plates, divided into three sets of 24, 24 cm in diameter.48 dessert or cheese plates, consisting of 47 plates with a diameter of 21.5 cm and one additional plate with a diameter of 24 cm.24 soup plates, 24 cm in

diameter.33 serving pieces:4 footed bowls, 14 cm in height, 25.5 cm in diameter, 30 cm in total width including handles.1 tall footed bowl, 17.5 cm in height, 28.5 cm in diameter, 35 cm in total width.4 small oval serving dishes (raviers), 24 cm in length.7 shallow footed bowls, 3.5 cm in height, 21.5 cm in diameter.1 covered tureen, 24 cm in height, 23 cm in diameter.3 rectangular platters, measuring 42 × 32 cm, 37 × 28 cm, and 30.5 × 24 cm.1 large fish platter, 65.56 cm in length, 27 cm in width.1 covered vegetable tureen, 25 cm in height, 30 cm in diameter.2 bowls with handles, 22.5 cm in diameter, 27.5 cm in total width.2 large bowls with handles, 27 cm in diameter, 31 cm in total width.2 deep serving dishes, 28, 31 cm in diameter.1 round flat platter, 32 cm in diameter.2 round flat platters, 34 cm in diameter.1 large round flat platter, 38.5 cm in diameter.1 sauce boat, 27 cm in length.ConditionThe set is in good condition, with no cracks or breakages. Some pieces show slight, aged stains and signs of use--entirely acceptable for earthenware of this period.One 24 cm plate is a later addition to the set of 21.5 cm dessert plates.A significant example of 19th-century tableware, notable for the scale of the collection, the variety of its serving pieces, and the harmony of its decorative design.Manufacturer: Sarreguemines.Pattern: Papillon (Butterfly).Period: Second half of the 19th century; the pattern was created toward the end of the Second French Empire.Total count: 177 pieces, serving 24 people.Delivery is provided via a shipping carrier, with the item packed in a wooden crate on a pallet and dropped off at ground level in front of your location. The cost is 300 euros for France, 1,000 euros for the EU, and 2,000 euros for the rest of the world. Shipping costs include the wooden crate and all packaging materials. The price is fair and appropriate for such a unique, one-of-a-kind set; therefore, the price is non-negotiable--thank you.