PROANTIC
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Frederick II On The Sixth Crusade. Embossed Silver Plate, 1228/29



51 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : 17 cm

Height : 3 cm

Description

www.stupormundi.art Frederick II the Crusader. A superb embossed silver plaque, approximately 17 cm in diameter, depicting a frontal image of Emperor and King Frederick II, bearded and seated on a throne, holding the Holy Lance in his right hand and the Crossed Globe in his left. Other similar depictions are known, found on seals and medals, where the "Stupor Mundi" is shown with a scepter and a sword; this particular symbolism, however, is previously unpublished. Surrounding the image of Frederick are eight crosses in relief, and the edge of the plaque bears the inscription: "FREDERICUS DEI GRA(ZIA) ROMANO(RUM) REX E SEMP(ER) AUGUSTUS REGNAT." Seated on a spacious throne, King and Emperor Frederick II brandishes a spear in one hand--a symbol of strength and

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undisputed military power--and with the other, by divine will, holds the Cruciferous Globe, representing Christ's dominion over the world. Eight crosses surround the Emperor's figure protectively; eight is one of the principal esoteric symbols in both Christian and Islamic art and tradition. Eight, the number representing the all-encompassing wholeness of the world between heaven and earth, is also a symbol of infinity. Eight, like the octagonal structure of Castel del Monte--the geometric shape that most closely approximates the circle, an expression of absolute perfection--is a symbol that remains inextricably linked to Frederick. The Spear, like the Cross, has strong symbolic significance linked to the Knights Templar and represents Christ's invincibility, even beyond death. The concept of the "Holy Lance," which already belonged to the ancient tradition of magical and invincible swords and lances in Germanic mythology, was also held in high regard in Christianity by the emperors, due to the role assigned to it. The "Lance" was the priestly symbol of the invincibility bestowed upon the Emperor as the legal representative of Christ on earth. The lance can also be interpreted as embodying an imperial dynastic role, since Frederick was a direct descendant of Constantine. This object can be reliably dated to between 1228 and 1229, since the sovereign--portrayed with a full head of hair and a long crusader's beard--is depicted at the age of thirty, armed and ready to embark on the Sixth Crusade; "Frederick's Crusade." It is deeply moving to consider what an immense achievement resulted from tolerance and openness toward Islam (which Frederick knew well and loved) and from mutual concessions aimed at peaceful coexistence. Frederick's Crusade concluded for the first time diplomatically, without any bloodshed, and brought--albeit for a brief period--peace and serenity to a region that remains, even today, the most conflict-ridden on earth. A policy of tolerance, mutual respect, and civil coexistence that, sadly, continues to be disregarded even now.