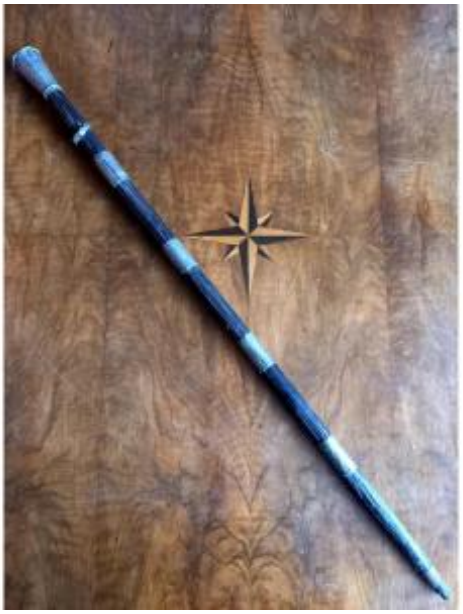
Peru. Traditional Scepter Staff: A Vara



680 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Description

The vara is the symbol reserved for the Varayocs (meaning "the one who holds the vara" in the Quechua language)--who are the dignitaries, still present today in Andean society, heirs to pre-Hispanic political structures that were tolerated but curtailed by Spanish colonization and are now not recognized by the Peruvian government. Their presence, however, remains constant in traditional society, where they officiate during agricultural festivals and ceremonies, serving as guardians of social cohesion and intermediaries between humans and the spiritual world. This attribute is passed down from an elder to a young recipient, who will ensure the continuity of this mission. The vara consists of a core made of sacred wood, the chonta, and is covered with silver inlays adorned

Dealer

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with various motifs, in this case floral ones.The pommel--a symbol of the fusion of two worlds, that of the Spanish monarchy and the Inca Empire--is adorned with a closed crown featuring a cross.Although the iron-tipped lower section is missing, the piece as a whole is preserved in excellent original condition and has never been altered. Based on a comparison with contemporary models, it is reasonable to assume that this vara dates from the mid-19th century or perhaps earlier. It is a rare artifact shedding light on Andean societies and their journey through a history of which they have been deprived.