Large Lead Matrix - Renaissance - 16th Century



2 500 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état général, quelques déformations, chocs et fissures.

Material : Lead

Length : 14,9 ~ 15,4 cm

Width : 15,1 ~ 15,3 cm

Depth : 6 ~ 9 mm

Description

Free shipping insurance included (E-U only)

Big lead religious matrix, early 16th century

Set in a square edged by a double groove, this matrix shows two kneeling down angels displaying between them a big heart shaped pendant surrounded by flowers. This heart, edged by a cord pattern, is ornamented with "IHS" letters ("Iesus Hominum Salvator", Jesus savior of men) and a big cross with INRI letters written down. The whole thing is embellished with plant leafs. Two friezes, cut in three points triangles motif, separate the central part from upper and lower thirds, where are drawn phylacteries.

In the upper part, two phylacteries are scrolled in

Dealer

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eight shape around an axis adorned with leaves. They tell words "L(A)ETETUR COR" on the right and "QU(A)E RENTIUM D(OMI)N(UM)" on the left side (Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice - Psalms 104, v.3). On the lower part, a big phylactery spun around an axis tells "COR· MU(N)DU(M)· CREA· IN+ ME+ DEUS+ " (Create in me a clear heart, O God - Psalms 50, v.12). The main setting of this matrix, the heart, thus matches the chosen verses.

The back of the matrix is ornamented with four rectangles set along the edges. They are richly chased with curlicue foliage.
Archaic style of the angels, with their almond shaped eyes and hair bent backwards falling in curls on the back of the neck, the chosen font for the letters "IHS", scrolled phylacteries and foliage ornaments, are typical of the transition between late Gothic style and Renaissance, leading to date this matrix around the year 1500. The choice of the verses, used in Gregorian singing, suggests that this matrix was employed by a monastic community, maybe to print wax souvenirs for pilgrims.

Very good condition, some little distortions bumps and fissures. Two little holes on the back seem to indicate that this matrix is hollow, made of two faces welded together.