

SA1006398

A museum-grade mid-17th century Dutch silver marriage coffin or knottekistje, circa 1660

Price

GBP 9,500

| USD \$12,855 | EUR 11,116

Item Reference: SA1006398

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 7 cm (2.8")

Width = 7.8 cm (3.1")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

A museum-grade mid-17th century Dutch silver marriage coffin or knottekistje, circa 1660. Raised on solid silver bun feet the miniature coffin is profusely engraved to all faces depicting a courting couple and architecture entwined in scrolling foliage. The reverse of the coffin depicts the last supper, however, if you look closely, you can see a boy stealing food or wine from underneath! Possibly, this is the courting gentleman showing that he had a sense of humour. The scratch lined moulded top is surmounted with an intricate handle (once gilt) and floral patera to the centre. There are two inscriptions each within a cartouche 'In Lÿfde Beltact het al' and 'Getrouw tot in den doot' which loosely translates to 'faithful until the death' and 'love is everything'. Wedding caskets such as this were a speciality of Friesland. Traditionally, a man's promise of marriage to his future bride and was formal when he presented her with a coin knotted into a costly cloth (knotteddoek). This later became a textile bag and then in the seventeenth century, the silver coffin (knottekistje). Though, examples such as this were reserved for the rich and noble. The Dutch Golden Age in the...

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