

SA1093679

Antique Italian Cantagalli Plate, Decorated with Putti, 19th Century – Large

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1093679****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Description

Terracotta majolica plate with monochrome painting. The plate features a raised, moulded rim decorated with shells, cherubs, and alternating landscapes, all within a royal heraldic rope held by cupids. On the reverse side of the rim, floral patterns are applied with quick brushstrokes. Ulisse Cantagalli (1839–1901) was an Italian potter from Florence, born into the renowned Cantagalli family, which had been associated with ceramics since the 15th century. While it remains unclear whether they were initially manufacturers or traders, it is known that they were well known in Impruneta (a town south of Florence) as kiln makers, land and property owners. By the early 18th century, the Cantagalli factory was producing ceramics in Florence. Under Ulisse's guidance, the artisans flourished, fulfilling his dream of creating a center for the decorative arts that showcased Italian talent. He frequently explored art galleries, museums, and private collections, seeking inspiration from Renaissance majolica. When he found a design he liked, he would sketch it onto large acetate sheets using pastel colors and tempera. His surviving sketchbooks testify to his skill, artistic talent, and...

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