

SA1121838

Satsuma, Earthenware Tea Set, Japan, c. 1890

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1121838****Date of manufacture: 1890**

Description

Antique hand-painted earthenware tea set, created in Kyoto, Japan, during the mid-Meiji period. The set includes one teapot with a cover, a milk jug with a cover, and a sugar bowl with a cover and two handles. The pieces are decorated with hand-painted flowers, such as chrysanthemums and cherry blossoms, set against a backdrop of mountains. The handles, spout, and edges feature gold detailing, while the covers showcase intricate geometric patterns in subtle colors. All cover finials are gilded. A key feature of Satsuma ware is its crackled glaze, achieved through special firing techniques. This glaze creates tiny, delicate cracks on the surface. The pieces are signed on the underside in gold with the Shimazu crest, indicating their origin from the Satsuma region and signifying the patronage of the powerful Shimazu family, who historically ruled the area. The mark also contains the characters ?? (Nihon), meaning "Japan," indicating that the pieces were made for export. During the Meiji period (1868-1912), Satsuma ware gained widespread popularity both in Japan and internationally, thanks to government efforts to promote Japanese goods abroad. The pieces exported during thi...

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