

SA1144003

Antique Coquilla Nut Bugbear Snuff Flask

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1144003****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Description

A late 1700s/early 1800s bugbear coquilla snuff flask. Elaborately and finely carved with military motifs, possibly a Napoleonic soldier. There is a carved woman and another woman playing a harp, carved flowers and leaves and birds. At one end there is a carved humorous face with glass eyes and an opening for a mouth where the snuff would be accessed from. There is a bone peg being used for a stopper. This piece is very finely made and is in very good condition. It measures approx 7cm l x 3.5cm w. A bugbear was a folkloric creature, and the term became a playful label for grotesque or humorous carved figures. In greenware, bugbear flasks were usually: Carved from coquilla nut or boxwood or other fine-grain hardwoods. Depicting a grotesque or humorous face on one end. Hollowed inside and used to carry snuff (powdered tobacco). Often detailed with elaborate carvings like soldiers, animals, or floral designs.

Seller Details

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