

SA1212131

Rare Edo Period 'Nanban' Porcelain Koro – Bakumatsu Era c. 1860

Price

GBP 1,800

| USD \$2,436 | EUR 2,106

Item Reference: SA1212131**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 15.5 cm (6.1")

Width = 11 cm (4.3")

Depth = 6.4 cm (2.5")

Description

An exceptional and museum-quality Japanese porcelain Koro (incense burner), dating from the late Edo period, specifically the Bakumatsu era (1853–1867). This rare survivor represents a pivotal moment in world history: the reopening of Japan to the West. The “Nanban” (“Southern Barbarian”) subject matter — depicting European galleons and figures — was a direct artistic response to the historic encounter between Japan and the Western world. The quality of this piece is exceptional. Unlike mass-produced export wares of the later Meiji era, this Koro exhibits the hallmarks of highly accomplished hand craftsmanship. Subtle irregularities of hand-moulding visible within the interior and on the base provide strong evidence of genuine Edo-period manufacture and individual workshop production from the twilight of the Samurai era. The decoration features vibrant polychrome enamels and rich gilding. The ship's rigging and the Europeans' costumes are rendered with extraordinary detail. The elephant-head handles with free-moving rings and the Shishi lion finial on the lid remain beautifully preserved. While minute age-related crazing is visible under magnification deep within the en...

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