

SA1228294

Rare Spanish Cast Bronze Apothecary Mortar with House of Enríquez Arms, c.1650-1720

Price

GBP 400

| USD \$540 | EUR 468

Item Reference: SA1228294**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 7.2 cm (2.8")

Width = 10.8 cm (4.3")

Depth = 10.8 cm (4.3")

Description

A rare antique Spanish Renaissance to early Baroque cast bronze apothecary mortar, manufactured in Spain, circa 1650-1720. The heavy bell-shaped body is sand-cast and strengthened by four vertical ribs dividing the exterior into four panels. Each panel is cast in relief with the crowned arms of the House of Enríquez, displaying two castles above a lion in the traditional mantled arrangement. The House of Enríquez was one of the foremost noble families of medieval and early modern Castile. The exceptionally thick body and deep hemispherical interior retain extensive evidence of historic use, including numerous pestle marks, old mineral deposits and a dark grey-green patina developed over centuries. The exterior preserves stable green malachite oxidation, while the underside displays characteristic seventeenth-century sand-casting features together with honest age-related wear. Comparable mortars bearing the arms of the House of Enríquez are preserved in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, while closely related examples have also appeared at public auction and on the Spanish antiques market. An uncommon seventeenth-century Spanish apothecary mortar combining ...

Internal Ref: B1824

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