

SA1228303

French Old Paris (Vieux Paris) Cabinet Cup and Saucer with Lion Mask Handle, c.1820

Price

GBP 300

| USD \$405 | EUR 351

Item Reference: SA1228303**Date of manufacture: Georgian**

Dimensions

Height = 10 cm (3.9")

Width = 7.6 cm (3.0")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

A fine antique French hard-paste porcelain cabinet cup and saucer produced by an independent Old Paris (Vieux Paris) porcelain workshop during the Bourbon Restoration period, circa 1820. This elegant demitasse cup stands on a high pedestal foot and is fitted with a finely gilded loop handle terminating in a sculpted biscuit porcelain lion's mask medallion. Lion-mask handles of this type were generally reserved for the more expensive examples of French porcelain. The decoration combines panels of deep cobalt-blue ornament, delicate rose garlands, a mint-green geometric diaper pattern and finely painted puce medallions. The central medallion depicts a winged putto holding a dove, while the saucer is decorated with a flaming altar and the torch of love. It seems to us that these classical motifs were intended to convey an allegory of love, peace and fidelity, reflecting the refined classical taste that characterised luxury French porcelain during the first half of the 19th century. Applied unglazed white biscuit relief decorates both the cup and saucer, creating a unified decorative composition. The carefully repeated relief demonstrates the high level of workmanship associated with this type of porcelain.

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