

SA434612

C19th Italian Venetian bronze
'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture
of the Lion of St. Mark.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA434612

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 9 cm (3.5")

Width = 18 cm (7.1")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

C19th Italian Venetian bronze 'Grand Tour' souvenir sculpture of the Lion of St. Mark . Well-cast miniature bronze reduction of the Lion of St.Mark representing the evangelist St.Mark , portrayed as a winged lion holding a bible. The lion is the symbol of the city of Venice and formerly of the Republic of Venice. The original ancient full-size winged lion sculpture is situated atop one of the twin marble columns at the entrance of the Piazzetta di San Marco adjacent to Piazza San Marco , Venice. Placed there in the 12th century , it was temporarily removed by Napoleon in 1797 and taken to Paris as to underscore his conquest of the Venetian Empire. Venetian tradition is that St.Mark arrived at the Venetian lagoon whilst travelling through Europe , when an angel appeared to him and told him that here was where his body would rest. St. Mark represented as a lion is a typical Christian iconography. In excellent condition ,with good consistent dark patination. H 3" W 7"(inc. tail) D 2.5" Italy, Venice c.1870

Internal Ref: ML 1611

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