



Table Bell With Pig In Enamelled Bronze, Vienna, 19th Century



860 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Bronze

Height : 10 cm

<https://www.proantic.com/en/1499085-table-bell-with-pig-in-enamelled-bronze-vienna-19th-century.html>

Description

The finial features a polychrome enamel bronze sculpture of an anthropomorphised pig, standing on its hind legs, front legs raised, and one ear perked up. It rests on a patinated and finely chiselled bronze base, delicately modelled as oak leaves. The bell's clapper takes the form of an acorn in fire-gilded bronze, with its cupule and leaves in patinated bronze. The body of the bell is crafted from pale green blown glass or crystal, most likely of Bohemian origin. Condition Report Excellent condition. Original patina and gilding well preserved, minor enamel losses. No visible inscriptions. The interplay between the metalwork and the transparency of the glass or crystal lends this piece a remarkable decorative refinement, where the precision of the chiselled bronze contrasts elegantly with the light-catching

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quality of the vitreous material. Symbolism and Interpretation In Austrian and Germanic culture, the pig is a symbol of luck and prosperity, a meaning reinforced by the popular expression "Schwein haben", which translates to "to have good fortune". Here, its dynamic, almost theatrical stance evokes a humorous scene typical of Viennese bronzes, often inspired by social satire and anthropomorphic caricature. The association with the oak leaf and acorn, symbols of strength and longevity, adds further depth to the piece. The acorn, forming the clapper of the bell, may also symbolise growth and success, making this object both a refined decorative element and an elegant good-luck charm.

Craftsmanship and Artistic Context Viennese bronzes are renowned for their meticulous execution and exceptional attention to detail. Here, each element is sculpted with remarkable precision, from the pig's expressive features, subtly modelled to enhance its character, to the delicacy of the foliage, with finely chiselled veins, and the gilded acorn, whose polished surface subtly catches the light. The combination of patinated and fire-gilded bronze with glass or crystal enhances the sophistication of the piece, making this table bell an object of distinction--both playful and luxurious. Produced between the 19th and early 20th centuries, Viennese bronzes are particularly valued for their refined craftsmanship and narrative quality. Animals are frequently depicted in humanised roles, reflecting the tastes and customs of Viennese society at the time. This bell is a perfect example of that tradition, skillfully blending humour, elegance, and exceptional artistry.