

Cartier Paris Chinoiserie Silver-Gilt and Lacquer Casket, Circa 1925

£2,950



REF: 5693

Height: 6 cm (2.4")

Width: 10.5 cm (4.1")

Depth: 9 cm (3.5")

Description

A superb and highly decorative Chinese-influenced table casket by Cartier Paris, dating to circa 1925. Crafted in silver-gilt and lacquer, this exceptional box reflects the imaginative fusion of Eastern-inspired ornament and luxurious European craftsmanship that became synonymous with Cartier's work in the 1920s.

The casket is distinguished by its rich lacquered surface and finely detailed silver-gilt mounts, culminating in a wonderfully sculptural pagoda-form handle set with coral beads. This ornamental feature gives the piece both a strong architectural silhouette and an unmistakable sense of exotic glamour. The interplay between the warm gilt metal, deep lacquer, and vivid coral creates a sumptuous and beautifully balanced finish.

During the 1920s, Cartier was at the forefront of the taste for *Chinoiserie*-a sophisticated European interpretation of East Asian decorative arts. The house drew inspiration from Chinese lacquer, pagodas, carved hardstones, and precious materials, translating these sources into objects of remarkable elegance and originality. This casket is a particularly evocative example of that aesthetic, combining practical function with the theatrical refinement of a miniature work of art.

Whether intended for jewellery, letters, keepsakes, or precious small objects, it would have made a luxurious addition to a dressing table, desk, or private cabinet. Today, it stands as a highly collectible Cartier object, appealing to collectors of early 20th-century decorative arts, luxury boxes, and jewellery-related objets.