

DA3753597

## 18th Century Reliquary

**£725.00**

W: 30 cm (11 13/16")  
H: 67 cm (26 3/8")  
D: 16.5 cm (6 1/2")

Decorative French 18th Century reliquary.

Reliquaries are fascinating pieces of religious history, and their purpose was just that- to preserve religious history.

When Christianity took off in Medieval Europe, with it came new rituals and practices. Christian devotion was expressed through pilgrimage: travelling to sacred places and worshipping holy relics. This could be anything from the supposed bones of a saint to any object a saint may have come into contact with.

Owning at least one relic was seen as a must for even the smallest local churches, and an honour for individuals. With the importance of relics came the reliquary: a way of storing and transporting these items. They featured in churches, processions and personal households.

By the 18th Century, the prestige of relics was in decline. The work of reformists such as Martin Luther to question their authenticity and relevance disputed the power these objects once held. For some, however, relics and reliquaries remained a vital part of religious life.

This reliquary is very decorative, as most were, with a visible winged cherub to the centre. Stunning decorative piece, with a rich history.

Condition: Good  
Period: 18th Cent and Earlier





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