EXCEPTIONAL, MUSEUM QUALITY, LATE-16TH/EARLY 17TH CENTURY, RÖMHILDER KÄSTCHEN,, CASKET, WITH REMOVABLE SLIDING SIDES REVEALING SECRET DRAWERS

£5,400

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REF: 11563

Height: 18 cm (7.1")

Width: 30 cm (11.8")

Depth: 19.5 cm (7.7")

Description

Exceptional example of an alabaster, architectural casket made in the renowned workshops of Römhild, of which fifty are known to have survived

• Named after the village of Römhild in the district of Hildburghausen produced by a workshop in the surroundings of Glücksburg castle.
• These caskets crisply carved from alabaster, a coveted stone, were collected by elite society and displayed in their galleries and Kunstkammern or collector's cabinets.
• There would have been great delight in revealing the secret device of this casket as the sides appear to be fixed and you cannot tell that they lift out to reveal the concealed drawers that would have contained precious small objects and jewels.
• The architectural form of this casket is typical of the Renaissance period creating gravitas in this small object.
• This casket is in exceptional authentic condition retaining its original secret drawers, working lock and hinges and marble paper.
• The monotone palette creates striking visual impact and this casket has great charm and character.
• Related casket in casket in Museum Herborn

The ebonized top with two carved alabaster panels within ogee mouldings and a mitred frame. The architectural tiered front with a central tablet within a pair of columns and carved alabaster arcaded panels either side flanked by a pair of alabaster columns. The sides with a repeat of the carved alabaster arcaded flanked by an alabaster column. The period key opening the original, working brass lock to reveal an interior with a fitted coin or candle box lined in marbled paper. The sides unusually removable to reveal a pair of drawers on the left side, the fronts painted green and lined in marble paper and on the left a long drawer similarly decorated.

Just purchased more information to follow.

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