



**Silver repoussé bowl (taza), Ottoman Balkans, probably Bosnia or Serbia, 18th century  
£1,600.00**

Silver repoussé bowl (taza), Ottoman Balkans, probably Bosnia or Serbia, 18th century

Of circular form with a raised central omphalos, the broad cavetto decorated in repoussé with alternating cartouches containing birds, quadrupeds and fantastic animals amidst dense scrolling foliage, divided by pointed arcade-like panels and foliate spandrels, the ornament deeply chased and worked in high relief throughout.

This type of silver vessel belongs to a distinctive group associated with the Ottoman Balkans, where local Balkan silversmithing traditions merged with Ottoman decorative aesthetics following the incorporation of the Serbian and Bosnian silver-mining regions into the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century. The animated animal imagery reflects both Byzantine symbolic traditions and the flourishing zoomorphic repertoire later seen in Ottoman Iznik ceramics.

The Balkan countries were the main source of silver within the Ottoman Empire - Serbia's richest mine, Novo Brdo, fell to the Turks in 1455 and Mehmet the Conqueror captured Bosnia and thereinits biggest mine, Srebenica, in 1463. With that the Balkan and Ottoman influences in silver workbegin to mix. Animals contained within compartments or a stylised arcade, are found on a number ofrelated examples generally attributed to Bosnia. With time the regional differences in style betweenRagusan, Bosnian and Serbian works began to lessen in the Ottoman period as craftsmen becamemore mobile. A closely related silver bowl, decorated with a sculpted stag on the omphalos, within afrieze including a rooster, a pigeon, a lion and other animals is published in A Treasured Memory, Ecclesiastical Silver from Late Ottoman Istanbul in the Sevgi Gonul Collection, Brigitte Pitarakis, Christos Merantzas, Istanbul, 2006, cat.33, p.153. The stag and other animals have a strongChristian symbolism in relation to the desire for salvation and to the eternal fight between good andevil. These motifs and symbols are found in Byzantine Art.

Measurements:

Width: 19,2 cm

Height: 3,5 cm

Weight: 195 grams

<b>Origin</b>	European Other
<b>Period</b>	18th Century
<b>Condition</b>	Excellent
<b>Dimensions</b>	Width: 19,2 cm Height: 3,5 cm Weight: 195 grams

Antique ref: JC-SILV-07231