



Agate and silver cup, attributed to Emile Froment-Meurice

Era: 19th century, Napoléon 3

Materials: agate, silver

Dim: W 12 cm / H 6,5 cm

Attributed: Maison Froment-Meurice

A square-shaped, rounded-corner bowl of brownish-orange agate, set in an openwork silver-gilt mount featuring classical motifs—palmettes, scrolling foliage, and acanthus leaves—with a fleur-de-lis adorning each of the bowl's four corners. The lower section of the agate bowl is encircled by a gadrooned frieze that transitions into a square silver base decorated with water-leaf motifs. Each of the four sides is embellished with a three-layer cameo, set within a white enamel leaf border and framed by decorative metalwork. Two cameos depict classical profiles of helmeted soldiers in Roman style, while the other two portray Hercules wearing the Nemean Lion's skin—a motif repeated on the fifth, central cameo adorning the interior of the bowl. French craftsmanship from the second half of the 19th century, attributed to the **Maison Froment-Meurice**.

A chip in the nose of an agate figurine

Émile was the grandson of the goldsmith François Froment (1773–1803) and the son of another goldsmith, François-Désiré Froment-Meurice (1802–1855). He took over his father's workshop following his death and assumed management of the business from his mother in 1859. He established his premises at 52 Rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré. He made his debut at the 1867 World's Fair, where the Froment-Meurice firm exhibited, among other pieces, a monumental mantelpiece intended for the Paris Hôtel de Ville. Like his father, he was an official supplier to the City of Paris, but he also supplied Napoleon III. He retired in 1907 without a successor.