



GILT BRONZE AND BRASS APOTHECARY SCALE WITH DOLPHIN AND SERPENT DECORATION



\$1,850.00

SKU: 320-4 | Stock: N/A | Categories: [Accessories & Miscellaneous](#) |

Country Of Origin

Portugal

Age

1900's

Dimensions

H - 24, W - 18 1/4, D - 8 3/8

Embellished with stylized dolphins and serpents, this gilt bronze and brass apothecary scale was made in Portugal in the early 1900's.



to rise or fall as weight is placed in the weighing pans. The weighing pan was originally called a scalepan, which is how balances became known as "scales". To use the scale, an object of unknown mass would be placed in one pan. Weights are added to the other pan until the beam is as close to horizontal as possible. Pharmacies would have used a scale like this around the turn of the 20th century.

Two circular brass pans are suspended by chains from the stylized dolphin hooks. The hooks are attached to the beam, which is once again a stylized dolphin. At the pivot, which is stamped "J.A.L. Portugal", there are two snakes rising up to form a caduceus, which is the symbol of medicine and commerce.

There is a fluted center column that terminates at the top in another stylized dolphin. The dolphin's tongue is formed into a hook which suspends the beam and weighing pans. The column is affixed to an irregular shaped base. When not in use, the ten weights are housed in their respective slots, located in the base. The weights range in size from .25 kg to 5 g.

This early 20th century Portuguese scale, complete with its original weights, will serve as a wonderful decorative accessory.

CONDITION: Very good antique condition with complete set of original weights. Minor oxidation in a few locations.



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