Large mid Victorian papier-mâché serving tray

£225

REF: 7048

Height: 6 cm (2.4")

Width: 80 cm (31.5")

Depth: 60 cm (23.6")

Description

A large mid Victorian papier-mâché hand painted serving tray depicting a still life of flowers, circa 1850.

The reverse of the tray gas

Victorian papier-mâché was a fashionable decorative craft popular in the 19th century, reflecting both innovation and elegance. Made from layers of paper pulp or sheets glued together and hardened, it was lacquered and often painted or inlaid with mother-of-pearl, gilt, or intricate designs.

The technique allowed artisans to create lightweight yet durable objects, including trays, furniture, tea caddies, and decorative boxes. During the Victorian era, industrialisation enabled mass production, making papier-mâché items more accessible. Its versatility and affordability appealed to the growing middle class, while elaborate ornamentation suited the Victorian taste for ornate interiors. Today, these objects remain prized antiques.