



MID-18TH CENTURY FRENCH AUBUSSON HISTORICAL TAPESTRY OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

\$19,000

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Commanding in scale and rich in narrative detail, this impressive antique tapestry is believed to depict an episode from the life of Alexander the Great. Crafted in France circa 1750 and handwoven in Aubusson, the composition centers on a crowned ruler seated beneath an elaborate draped canopy, surrounded by armored attendants. Before him, a kneeling warrior extends his arms in supplication, while scattered armor, richly patterned garments, an ornate carpet, and architectural details heighten the theatrical character of the scene.

The subject is believed to represent Alexander receiving the defeated Indian king Porus following the Battle of the Hydaspes in 326 BC. According to the ancient account, when Alexander asked Porus how he wished to be treated, the defeated king famously answered, "Like a king." Impressed by his courage, Alexander restored his kingdom and accepted him as an ally. The story became an enduring symbol of magnanimity and noble conduct in victory.

Woven in a restrained palette of blue, taupe, gray, cream, and muted gold, the tapestry features expressive figures, classical armor, sweeping drapery, architectural elements, and a verdant landscape beyond the balustrade. A narrow contrasting border frames the composition.

The tapestry retains a later protective fabric backing and hanging hardware. It is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with expected restorations and surface wear consistent with an 18th-century textile.

Dimensions: 85" W x 90.5" H.