bushidobuce

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**Letter of Authenticity**

**Congratulations on your receipt of this authentic, "Aunt Nadiene's Thai Black and Yellow Gold Vermeil, Baroque Pearl and Rhodolite Garnet Gems Ring - A Séance Spirit Reading Room Find**," **from the estate of Marie Glapion Baptiste, the daughter of Marie Glapion and Grand-daughter of Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queens of New Orleans in the 19th. and early 20th. Centuries.**

**Marie Glapion Baptiste was a world traveled Voodoo Sorceress and Joo Joo Exorcist. She died in Dade County, Florida on or around July 10th., 1985 of natural causes at an unknown age, estimated to be well over 100 years old and leaving no heirs.**

**We were hired by the executor’s of this estate to liquidate it in its entirety and by my signature below, unconditionally guarantee the authenticity of this, “Aunt Nadiene's Thai Black and Yellow Gold Vermeil, Baroque Pearl and Rhodolite Garnet Gems Ring - A Séance Spirit Reading Room Find," as having belonged to Marie Glapion Baptiste, being part of h**e**r estate.**

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**Some Back Story**

**This is one of the two hundred and twelve assorted pieces of Thai vermeil and gemstone jewelry that were recovered from a jewelry salesman's sample case sitting on the floor in the storage closet that served her main séance and reading room.  These rooms were a commercial endeavor that had a wealthy following and it is where many of the major séances of this estate were conducted.  Many, if not all of her associates worked this room, conducting séances, card readings and numerous forms of divination for their clientele.  Apparently this was a lucrative endeavor, as it remained active for over six decades.  
  
Her journals list a host of well known psychics, mediums and other celebrities that would make guest appearances and that these events were booked to capacity well in advance.**

**The also tell us the ring is one of many her Aunt Nadiene had made for her by a Thai jeweler of Chanthaburi in 1956/57.  This jeweler had copied a handful of gold and gemstone rings in vermeil, many of which were gifted and inherited by her niece.**

**While there, she purchased a sizable quantity of jewelry to be sent home for resale to their clients.  Often times claiming to cast spells or attach spirits to a selected piece of jewelry at a client's request, as in the case of this ring.**

**Aunt Nadiene**

**Although not a blood Aunt, she had been "taken into the fold as a child found" by her "mother" as she was said to refer to Marie Glapion.  Further chronological investigation revealed her to be the daughter of a prostitute that was in her mother's (Marie Glapion) employ.  Other notes found might lead one to believe her mother was an Algul.  Described as a vampiric jinn like creature they claimed to have encountered in remote desert regions.**

**Our own research has not revealed very much other than Algul literally translates to "horse-leech", or "blood-sucking Jinn".  An example was found in the 'Thousand and One Nights' as Amine.  Although a drinker of blood, it is a Jinn, or demon that was never human.  Unkillable by most means, it can be destroyed by fire and sometimes magic.  Most inhabited unchartable regions of desert, but oil production has driven them from their homes and she claims "they live among us, posing no threat to adults save sexual fulfillment, but they must be watched around children and livestock."**

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**It is not clear if Aunt Nadiene was abandoned by her mother or if the mother died, orphaning the girl, but she was apparently treated and referred to as a family member, indoctrinated along with her "niece", and for many years she was her traveling companion and guardian.**

**Her journals note of Aunt Nadiene's passing in 1966.**

**She notes of wearing Aunt Nadiene's jewelry, "Connected to her so closely in life, it awakens psychic qualities with a feeling of devotional joy to wear them."**

**Other journal entries allege incidents of Aunt Nadiene, "owl shape shifting", claiming the Great Horned Owl as being her spirit guide or token spirit animal, and because of this, her taking due care in the handling of owls in her bird and reptile ceremonies, not submitting them to the torturous ceremonial deaths many other species endured during these ceremonies.**

**She also notes of a number of dreams in which a Great Horned Owl wearing her aunt's jewelry would appear to her.  They also go into detail of her gazing into her stones (sphere's), to draw upon Aunt Nadiene's power to help her in this life.**

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**The Ring, Its Components and Commentary**

**Examination reveals a substantial, well made, 22k/24k yellow gold  and 'Black Gold' vermeil ring displaying a 22.225  x 15.875 x 15.875 mm, white Baroque Pearl and set and seventeen 1.6 mm, faceted round, rhodolite garnet gems, all further described below.**

**We believe the ring may have been a catalog item among the jewelers of Chanthaburi with the options being choice of metals and gemstones.**

**Chanthaburi is a well known center of semi-precious stones and jewelry.  It was once famous for its ruby and sapphire mines, but most of Chanthaburi's mines have been mined out since the 1980s.  Today it is an industry leader in colored stone processing, including gemstone treatments, enhancements, cutting and polishing.  Nearly 70% of the world's entire supply of rubies and sapphires pass through Chanthaburi.**

**Their journals tell us these pieces of jewelry were chosen for their design and combinations of metal and gemstones.**

**Gold Vermeil**

**Gold Vermeil refers to electroplated silver (described below), using gold of different fineness.  The US. minimum required karatage is 10K (42% of pure gold) and with a thickness of at least 2.5 microns (0.0025 millimeters) and being made up entirely of two precious metals (silver and gold).  Vermeil jewelry therefore has a greater intrinsic value than gold plated jewelry with a thicker plating of the gold over sterling silver.**

**Gold plating is a method of depositing a layer of gold onto a conductive surface.  The piece in base metal to be gold plated is immerged in an electrolyte solution with particles of gold which are deposited onto the surface of the base metal thanks to a current.  This is the same technique used to form gold vermeil; in vermeil a layer of at least 2.5 microns of gold (also referred to as “heavy gold plating”) is deposited onto silver.**

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**Sterling Silver and Gold**

**More often than not, their metal of choice was silver as she notes, "Silver is the mirror of the soul related to the moon energies.  It strengthens connections of the astral and physical bodies.  A metal unmatched in its psychic energies and healing abilities, I have used it as a spell medium, to heal the speech impaired and to help public speakers achieve eloquence.  Induced into the drink, it has expelled the toxins that caused headaches, arthritis, intestinal and blood disorders.  More importantly it attracts, enhances and stores energies of gemstones, driving out negative energies the stone may have absorbed."**

**Although silver was her usual metal of choice, sometimes, as in this case, gold was used and she notes, "Gold transmits and conducts energies extremely well.  It balances these energy fields and is beneficial in the third eye and crown meditations.  It removes negative energies and brings in the positive from the stones it is with.  It is a mineral of spirituality, understanding and attunement."  
  
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**Black Gold**

**Her journals and inventory tell us this is 'black gold vermiel' but to the best of our knowledge there is no such thing as black gold per se.  The majority of the ring's surface has a** **black rhodium plate.  This is also an excellent plating material.**

**Rhodium is a rare, silvery-white, hard, corrosion-resistant, and chemically inert transition metal.  It is a noble metal and a member of the platinum group.  Naturally occurring rhodium is usually found as the free metal, alloyed with similar metals, and rarely as a chemical compound in minerals such as bowieite and rhodplumsite.  It is one of the rarest and most valuable precious metals.**

**Rhodium is found in platinum or nickel ores together with the other members of the platinum group metals.  It was discovered in 1803 by William Hyde Wollaston in one such ore, and named for the rose color of one of its chlorine compounds, produced after it reacted with the powerful acid mixture aqua regia.**

**Her journals tell us, "Akin to gold and silver, rhodium assists in the neural function that allows psychic perceptions and lucid, vivid dream recall.  In normal everyday functions, it increases strength and clarity of thought."**

**"It is a metal of achievement, power and wealth."**

**She does tell us, "the pearl and stones used in this ring are host to a long list of metaphysical properties".**

**Baroque Pearl  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, for the most part...**

**Baroque pearls are pearls with an irregular non-spherical shape.  Shapes can range from minor aberrations to distinctly ovoid, curved, pinch, or lumpy shapes.  Most cultured freshwater pearls are baroque because freshwater pearls are mantle-tissue nucleated instead of bead nucleated.  Cultured saltwater pearls can also be baroque, but tend to be more teardrop-shaped due to the use of a spherical nucleation bead.**

**The most valuable of baroque pearls are the South Sea and Tahitian pearls.  These pearls are produced by Pinctada margaritifera (black-lipped oysters) and Pinctada maxima (gold-lipped and white-lipped oysters).  Although these are a variety of cultured saltwater pearls, the amount of time that the pearls are cultured dramatically increases the depth of the nacre, and the likelihood of producing a baroque pearl.  Most Tahitian pearl farm harvests, for example, produce more than 40 percent baroque and semi-baroque pearls.  Western Australia is currently the world's largest cultivator of Pinctada maxima gold-lipped oysters.  Tahiti is the number one cultivator of Pinctada maxima black-lipped oysters.  
  
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**Of white baroque pearls she writes, "this oyster awakens the energy of Tangaloa to develop this nacre that holds the secrets of creation.  This is genderless energy that seeks to pleasure both man and woman alike."**

**Her journal entries concerning this topic are far too risqué to publish here, but suffice to say she claims to have used them as a, "stimulation in the treatment of client's suffering sexual disorder's, and of course, my own personal use.”**

**Considering her age at the time of these entries, she describes some very active sexually behavior some might consider inappropriate for a woman half of her age.  Two of her entries concerning baroque pearls that we can publish read; "Their energies focus on the sexual organs recognizing their stimulation, along with the soothing energies it generates will cause procreation in the human species."**

**"This oyster was aphrodisiac to the Ancient Shaper's of Worlds.  It's telling is in these pearls.  They have not failed to produce orgasm in either gender."  
  
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**The Rhodolite Garnet Gems**

**The Rhodolite Garnet gems used in this ring, are of fair to fine cut and color with loupe visible inclusions.  The gems display a very good amount of flash.**

**Some of her journal entries concerning rhodolite garnet read; "vivid dream stones of past life remembrance.  These are energies of love and life that enhance these within us.  It cleanses and renews, comforts and protects, doing well for those in need of self respect and courage."**

**"Assuredly dream work stones that have been aggressive in past life recall with strong tendencies to formulate love and bonding."**

**"The stone draws happiness and is an aid to sexuality sharpening perceptions to allow creative energies to whet the sexual appetite.  If worn during cycle it will help to control a bad months flow."**

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**These have all been prong set in yellow gold vermeil.  
  
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**But Back to the Ring  
  
The ring is marked "925" with no maker's or assay marks, and tests as .925 Sterling Silver Standard.**

**It is a ring size 7 1/2 and the ring face measures approximately 1 3/16" x 15/16" x 11/16", and the ring weighs 17.7 grams.**

**It is certainly a nicely aged vintage ring with an extraordinary provenance.**

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**We have transferred the guardianship of this lot to one Susan Locks, on 02/01/2022.  In addition, the lot has been photographed, this document logged into our registry with the corresponding number appearing below, which we may have discreetly placed on the accompanying lot.**

**00168365**

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**C.J. Conti, Sr.**

**Marketing Director**