bushidobuce

325 NW Shoreview Drive

Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34986 USA

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**Letter of Authenticity**

**Congratulations on your receipt of this authentic, "Aunt Nadiene's Thai White and Yellow Gold Vermeil, Tanzanite and Chrome Diopside Gem, Three Headed Snow Leopard Ring - A Séance 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 White and Yellow Gold Vermeil, Tanzanite and Chrome Diopside Gem, Three Headed Snow Leopard Ring - A Séance 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 silver, 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.  Her journaled inventory tells us this is one of the rings 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 piece of jewelry at a client's request.**

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**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 also 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 large, unusual and well made, 22k white and yellow gold vermeil, wide cigar band setting with a modernist filigree and tri-headed feline motif ring with a six 3 x 5.75 mm faceted marquis tanzanite gems bezel set in the cat's eyes, and fifteen 2.5 mm, faceted round chrome diopside gems hammer set as the cat's spots, all further described below.**

**We believe these rings were catalog items among the jewelers of Chanthaburi with the options being choice of metals and gemstones.  This is a popular regional design motif that we have encountered many times pre and post dating our acquisition of this estate by many years.  Similar jewelry is still being produced by the jewelers of Chanthaburi today.**

**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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**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."**

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

**The Tanzanite Gems**

**The three pair of faceted marquis tanzanite gems used as the feline eyes in this ring are of good to fine cut and pale blue color.  They are heavily included with eye visible, heat sensitive rainbow or aurora borealis inclusions.** **Some of her journal entries concerning Tanzanite read; "I find that wearing it against the skin assuages certain destructive urges we seem to foster.  This gemstone brings with it an awareness of this."**

**"This is a soothing energy source that aids in recovery from illness, injury and stress.  I have also used it in ridding sleep of fitful unremembered dreams.  It is regenerative and affects the internal organs causing them to purge accumulated toxins."  
  
"Here is an excellent crystal for use in exploring your psychic abilities, as it enhances them slightly, and gives a distinct awareness while affording a level of protection.  Its soothing energy slowly opens the chakra which prevents psychic and demonic impressions from merging, alleviating the ensuing panic and confusion."  
  
"Here is an interesting characteristic of this stone.  It is an omnidirectional key that opens and closes the third chakra.  Rotating the stone clockwise about the third eye opens it, while reversing direction, in a counterclockwise motion will close it."  
  
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**The Chrome Diopside Gems**

**Although she refers to chrome diopside as "Intuit Stone," in her journal and inventory entries, they are assuredly chrome diopside.  These entries attribute "Intuit Stone," as having a specific range of metaphysical and healing properties.**

**One such entry reads; "Unique radiating energies that open the mind's intuitive perceptions to allow one to follow this direction and act upon these thoughts and feelings.  But take care, it will open your heart and mind to other's, as well, so choose carefully.  As a healer, it allows the compassion necessary to heal, it is a calming talisman that will improve blood circulation, reducing the heart rate and stress."  
  
The gems are of very-good to fine cut, and color with an abundance of flash.  
  
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**But Back to the Ring**

**According to her inventory entry of these rings, this feline depiction is that of  the Snow Leopard, a large cat indigenous to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia, yet lacking in folklore as our research revealed.  We also found no reference to any of these cats having three heads, yet here we are.**

**Snow Leopard Conservancy**

**Myths and Legends**

**Nepalese Myths Surrounding Snow Leopards**

**The snow lion, who lives in the Glaciers of the Himalaya, is a mythical creature of the Buddhist realm.**

**From Observations on Conservation of Snow Leopards in Nepal, by Som B. Ale and Bhaskar S. Karky.**

**In the northerly societies of Nepal many indigenous beliefs and shamanistic practices, reflecting local pre-Buddhist traditions, were incorporated and subsequently reworked into the Buddhist pantheon and ritual system.  One such ritual in Manang connected to the snow leopard and its depredation forbids alpine herders to roast meat, for otherwise the mountain god will send its “dog”, (i.e. snow leopard) and one has to suffer livestock losses.**

**In Dolpo there are stories of great lamas frequently making trips to Tibet in the form of snow leopards, in search of rare medicinal herbs.  Other folklore describes the snow leopard as a “fence” for the crops, meaning that in the absence of snow leopards livestock would be free ranging and thus would invade crop fields.**

**Local inhabitants still believe that snow leopards (and domestic cats) are considered to have taken birth particularly to remove the sins of their past lives, and killing these animals means having their sins transferred to your own life.**

**In Mustang, killing a snow leopard is considered to be more sinful than its prey species (for instance blue sheep), because all sins it has committed during its lifetime by killing its prey will then be transferred to you.**

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**Once again, Back to the Ring!**

**It is marked "925" with no maker's or assay marks, and tests as .925 Sterling Silver Standard.**

**It is a ring size 8 and the ring face measures approximately 1 1/4" x 1 5/16" x 5/8", and weighs 14.8 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 Pan's Apothika, our exclusive West Coast Distributer,**

**who on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/       /         , has transferred this guardianship to one**

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**In addition, the lot has been photographed and this document logged into our registry with the corresponding number appearing below, which we may have discreetly placed on the accompanying lot**.

**00166696**

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

**Marketing Director**

**bushidobuce**

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**Vicky Adams**

**Witch Goddess**

**Pan's Apothika**