Finch & Co



PAIR OF ITALIAN 'AFTER THE ANTIQUE' CARVED IVORY CLASSICAL PORTRAIT RELIEF'S

A FINE PAIR OF ITALIAN 'AFTER THE ANTIQUE' CARVED IVORY CLASSICAL PORTRAIT RELIEF'S

LATE 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 5CM HIGH, 3.5CM WIDE – 2 INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE

5CM HIGH, 4CM WIDE – 2 INS HIGH, 1½ INS WIDE

BELGIUM CITES: 2025/BE01012/CE

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LITERATURE

THESE CUT AWAY, IVORY PROFILE HEADS WERE PROBABLY CARVED AFTER ANTIQUE ROMAN GEMS. THE PORTRAIT RELIEF WEARING A HELMET FORMED FROM A LION'S HEAD AND MANE PROBABLY REPRESENTS THE ROMAN EMPEROR TRAJAN (AD98-117) WHO TOOK UP THE ATTRIBUTES OF HERCULES. THE ROMAN GOD HERCULES ORIGINATED FROM THE GREEK HERO HERAKLES AND EMBODIED THE MASCULINE CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT STRENGTH, COURAGE AND APPETITE. HE WAS A POPULAR CULT FIGURE WITH THE ROMAN LEGIONS, WHO IN BATTLE, WOULD CRY 'MEHERCLE' AS AN AID TO COURAGE.

THE OTHER RELIEF PROBABLY PORTRAYS THE ROMAN EMPEROR MARCUS AURELIUS (AD161-80) WEARING THE HELMET OF ACHILLES, THE INVINCIBLE WARRIOR AND HERO OF HOMER'S ILIAD.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION

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