

SA1083159

Antique Roman Grand Tour Micromosaic Marble Desk Weight 19th Century

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1083159****Date of manufacture: 1860**

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 11 cm (4.3")

Depth = 14.5 cm (5.7")

Description

This is a superb decorative antique Roman Grand Tour Micromosaic inset black marble desk paperweight, circa 1860 in date. The cartouche shaped top features micromosaic decoration inlaid with five topographical panels depicting the Pantheon, the Temple of Vesta, the Colosseum, St Peter's Square and the Temple of Vespasian. Condition: In really excellent condition, please see photos for confirmation. Dimensions in cm: Height 5 cm x Width 11 cm x Depth 14.5 cm Dimensions in inches: Height 2 inches x Width 4 inches x Depth 6 inches Micro-Mosaic From the Renaissance micro-mosaics began to be made in Italy, reaching the height of their popularity in the mid 19th century, when Rome was the centre of production; there was a Vatican Mosaic Studio from 1576, set up to create mosaic replicas of the altarpieces in St Peter's Basilica, which were being damaged by the humid conditions of the vast and crowded interior. They were popular purchases by visitors on the Grand Tour, easily portable, and often taken home to set into an object there. Typical scenes were landscapes of Roman views, rarely of any artistic originality, and the micromosaics were small panels used to inset into...

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