

SA235265

Pair of C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir carved serpentine marble models of "Jennings Dog".

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA235265

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 17.78 cm (7.0")

Width = 15.24 cm (6.0")

Depth = 7.62 cm (3.0")

Description

Pair of C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir carved serpentine marble models of "Jennings Dog" after the antique. The dog being a Roman sculpture of a Molossian guard-dog with a docked tail, named after its first 'modern' owner Henry Constantine Jennings, who acquired it during his stay in Rome for £80, sometime between 1753 and 1756 quoting "a fine dog it was, and a lucky dog was I to purchase it". It is a 2nd century AD Roman copy of a Hellenistic bronze original probably from 2nd century BC. The study showing the immense physicality and power of this impressive canine specimen. Now on permanent display in The British Museum having been saved for the nation (see photo below). Also known as the "Hound of Alcibiades", by legend the Greek statesman who owned such a fierce dog and docked its tail to invoke pity from the Athenians and distract them from his worst deeds. Also latterly known as "Duncombes Dog", when in 1778, Jennings was forced to sell the sculpture in settlement of his gambling debts and it was sold at Phillips for £1000 to the Rt.Hon Charles Duncombe. Subsequently it stood guard for 150 years in the entrance hall at Duncombe Park, Yorks, before being sold b...

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