

SA329186

Collection of C19th erotic
'Grand Tour' souvenir plaster
intaglios in 'faux book' binding.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA329186

Date of manufacture: 1880

Description

Collection of C19th erotic 'Grand Tour' souvenir plaster intaglios in 'faux book' binding. The double-sided 'volume' containing 102 explicit intaglios from the ancient Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, depicting erotic art, frescoes, mosaics, sculptures, phallic and fertility symbolism. Produced by Lacchini, probable Victorian prurience has led to the binding being entitled 'Opere di Canova' (ie. Works by Antonio Canova) on the spine, to disguise the true nature of the content. Regarded on excavation in the C18th as pornographic, the collection of images, frescoes and mosaics was for over a century, hidden from public view in a secret cabinet in the National Museum of Naples. On open exhibition since 2000, the collection indicates that the sexual mores of ancient Roman culture at this time were far more liberal than most modern-day cultures, though much of the erotic depiction is regarded now as fertility-imagery. A rare item from the 'Grand Tour' souvenir industry, no doubt regarded as a highly risqué acquisition in the period, in addition to being a serious academic reference study of ancient Roman art. The 102 well-cast paper-bound plaster intaglios/gems...

Internal Ref: MLBO 152

Seller Details

M Lees and Sons

Tower House 1 Castle Place Severn St Worcester WR1 2NB United Kingdom



Tel: 07860 826218 or 01905 26620

International Tel: +44 7860 826218 or +44 1905 26620