

SA431113

Late C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir marble micro-mosaic inlaid paper-weight "The Doves of Pliny".

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA431113

Date of manufacture: 1870

Dimensions

Height = 10 cm (3.9")

Width = 15 cm (5.9")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

Late C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir marble micro-mosaic inlaid paper-weight "The Doves of Pliny". Cartouche shaped black marble, or Belgo Nero, paperweight with intricate micro-mosaic coloured glass inlay. The design of the doves, known as the 'Capitoline Doves' or 'Doves of Pliny', comes from a Roman floor mosaic discovered in 1737 at Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, which in turn is believed to be a copy of a lost Ancient Greek mosaic at Pegamon. The original is described by Pliny the Elder in his Natural History, completed in 77 AD. The term 'micro-mosaic' is used to describe mosaics made of the smallest pieces of glass. Glass micro-mosaic technique developed in the C18th in the Vatican workshops, and later flourished as an industry in Rome making pieces such as this as expensive tourist mementoes. Minor losses to a small area of one dove, but overall good original condition. Minor chip to edge of 'waisted' black marble body. Good strong original colours. H 4" W 6" D 0.75" Italy c.1870

Internal Ref: ML 1610

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

