

SA882307

Portrait bust of Sappho, by A. Gennai.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA882307****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 33 cm (13.0")

Width = 38 cm (15.0")

Depth = 20 cm (7.9")

Description

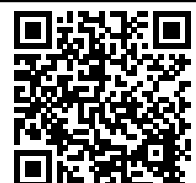
A fine alabaster sculpture, late 19th century, of the Greek lyric poetess Sappho, by the Italian sculptor A. Gennai, of whom little is known, other than that this is typical of his work. This is a singularly beautiful artwork, despite some minor damages to the laurel wreath; this wreath is an attribute of Sappho who was famous for her poetry .. to this day our most honoured poet is the 'Poet Laureate'. SAPPHO was greatly loved for her personification of love and affection, and her creativity. Her poetry was so rhythmical, usually accompanied by music and dance, that it gained the reputation for being the Divine Inspiration of the Muses. She was born on the Aegean island of Lesbos about 615 BC. To the Greeks Homer was the Poet and Sappho was the Poetess. Plato called her The Tenth Muse. Those who know the language of ancient Greece have long ago convinced us that much of the beauty of Greek lyric verse is lost in English translation. The Greeks' appreciation of the poetry of Sappho gave her the recognition as one of the greatest of women poets and the greatest of all lyric poets. She was married and the mother of a child but her poetry reveals her sexual attraction to wom...

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