

SA896835

Fine 'matched' pair of late C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir serpentine marble inkstands each mounted with carved lava cameo profiles .

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA896835

Date of manufacture: 1870

Dimensions

Height = 12 cm (4.7")

Width = 15 cm (5.9")

Depth = 15 cm (5.9")

Description

Fine 'matched' pair of late C19th Italian 'Grand Tour' souvenir serpentine marble inkstands mounted with carved lava cameo profiles. Pair of circular carved 'Prato verde' or 'serpentina moschinata' marble, lidded inkstands each mounted with seven finely-carved oval coloured specimen lava cameo profiles of Italian poets and philosophers each with a patinated brass frame surround. The lids each with a turned circular knob handle. The bases each with gadrooned carving, and the interiors each fitted with varying configurations of gilded brass and glass inkwells and quill-holders. One inkstand mounted on the underside of the lid with a finely executed gouache watercolour classical scene depicting the 'Baths of Caracalla' in Ancient Rome, with a gilt-brass frame surround. Probably produced in Naples last quarter of the nineteenth century. The lava specimens almost certainly gleaned from the area of Mount Vesuvius and its volcanic activity, the colours of the lava created by the crystallisation and oxidation of the various mineral samples from the lava flow. The green marble of Prato is a metamorphic rock belonging to the Apennine Serpentinite rocks, typical of the Pra...

Internal Ref: ML 225

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