

SA997032

ANTIQUE STAFFORDSHIRE FIGURE OF HAMLET

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA997032****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 27 cm (10.6")

Description

Well coloured Victorian staffordshire figure of Hamlet, titled. Circa 1852 Height: 27 cm Width: 9.5 cm Depth: 9.5 cm Weight 810 ?? Stars of the 19th century theatre were often celebrated in paintings, prints and drawings, and in ceramic figurines. Several Staffordshire factories specialised in moulded earthenware portrait figurines which were decorated by hand and sold cheaply. This shows the actor-manager John Philip Kemble (1757-1823) as Hamlet, the part in which he first made his name on the stage in Dublin in 1782 and the following year at London's Drury Lane Theatre. The Kemble family dominated the theatrical world in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and when John Philip Kemble made his London debut as Hamlet in September 1783, his sister Sarah Siddons was already regarded as one of the greatest tragedians ever. The pose was copied from a contemporary engraving published in Tallis's Shakespeare Gallery, 1852-1853, after a painting by Lawrence. At least seven earthenware portrait figurines are known to have been copied from engravings in Tallis's Shakespeare Gallery, known as 'Tallis figures'. They were made in many sizes and are thought to have been made b...

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