

GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

CERTIFICATE

MARBLE HEAD OF CAESAR

Ex LORD SPENCER COLLECTION

Acquired in 1746 in Italy

MATERIAL AND METHOD: Idealised head of Caesar in very fine grain white marble. Mixing Julius Caesar's characteristic physical traits with the more specific hairstyle of Octavien and the Julio-Claudians. Head slightly turned to the right, wide and strong neck, the eyes scrutinizing the horizon marked with pupils in the shape of commas, fine and straight nose, narrow mouth and prominent chin. The lachrymal caruncles created by a simple hole made with a drill bit. Thick hair worked in very fine strands.

ORIGIN: Archaeological discoveries, starting in the 15th century, facilitated a return to the taste for Classical art as the source of inspiration in art and architecture. Antiquity became an obligatory reference for any creation, even watered down, disguised or distorted. During the 17th century, with the Baroque style, the reproduction of Classical art is in the hands of the sculptors, such as Bernini, who were above all restorers. The neoclassicism marks then a return to the purity of classical forms.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 37 cm (14,5") Mounted on a custom made stand not included in the measurements. Height of the base : 30 cm (11,81")

PROVENANCE: This head was exhibited in Althorp with nine others in the famous "Artist Corridor". In 1746, the initial series included twelve heads listed as being exhibited in the "Billiard Room" and library in the southwest wing according to Benjamin Goodison's inventory (MSS, British Library, Add. 78026, Althorp Papers). It was purchased very certainly by Hon. John Spencer in 1746 during his journey to Italy. Althorp is the property of the Spencer family (ancestors of the late Diana, Princess of Wales) the construction of which began in 1508.

CULTURAL PASSPORT: Supplied with a cultural passport from The Ministère Français de la Culture n°157333.

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