



Significant Cameo Collection

Circa: Circa 1785 - 1790

cm

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by the famous gem cutters
Nathaniel Marchant (England 1739–1819) and
Giovanni Pichler (Italy 1734–1791)

5 tablets
198 cameos

Silver frames on Prussian blue cardboard behind glass

The objects are positive impressions in a modeling clay (based on chalk ground or similar), framed with strips of paper with embossed gilt edges, after cameos by Giovanni Pichler (1734–1791) and Nathaniel Marchant (1739–1819). Thematically, the cameos depict neoclassical motifs, some depicting mythological scenes, personalities, and famous sculptures from Greco-Roman antiquity (e.g., Hercules Fighting the Cretan Bull, the Laocoon Group, the Farnese Hercules, portraits of Marcus Aurelius, Socrates, and others).

Most pieces are signed "PICHLER" in Greek transcription, a few also with "MARCHANT."

The collection of these impressions is likely to be particularly interesting, as the originals are difficult to locate today or have been lost, thus documenting a significant portion of the work of these cameo makers, who were very prominent in their time.

Literature:

Catalogue of One Hundred Impressions from Gems, Engraved by Nathaniel Marchant
G. Seidmann, 'Nathaniel Marchant, gem-engraver, 1739-1816', in *Walpole Society*; 53 (1987), pp. 1-105

Hermann Rollett: *The Three Masters of Gemmogliptics: Antonio, Giovanni, and Luigi Pichler. A Biographical and Art-Historical Presentation.* Braumüller, Vienna 1874