

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



A Pietre Dure Cabinet

Pietre Dure, Florence, Cabinet and table,

145 x 81.3 cm
57.0866141732283 x 57.0866141732283"

End of the 17th Century 18th Century

145 x 81.3 x 42.5 cm (57¹/₈ x 32 inches)

Pietre dure: Florence, late 17th century

Cabinet and table: England, late 18th century

Pietre dure, pietre tenere, ebonized oak, mahogany, brass, gilt metal

A cabinet with eleven pietre dure and pietre tenere mosaic panels on the front depicting Tuscan landscapes on an Albarese limestone background. This cabinet was made in England in the late 18th century and is typical of the furniture inspired by the tastes of travelers who, during their Grand Tour of Italy, purchased Florentine mosaics from the grand ducal workshops and designed them into custom-made cabinets upon their return. The landscape panels are linked to those of a cabinet located in the Villa del Poggio Imperiale after 1691. They demonstrate the interest in landscape themes in the grand ducal workshops in the late 17th century. Similar types of panels can be found on German furniture from the early 18th century. Examples include cabinets from Ambras Castle, Braunschweig, and a desk in Wiesentheid Castle.

This cabinet was exhibited in Los Angeles in 1991 and is illustrated in the book *The Gilbert Collection – Hardstones*.

Exhibition:

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Literature:

Illustrated in: Anna Maria Massinelli, *The Gilbert Collection – Hardstones*, Philip Wilson Publishers in association with *The Gilbert Collection*, fig. 5
Baldini, Giusti and Pampaloni Martelli 1979, fig. 164
Kreisel 1970, fig. 186
Kunsthistorisches Museum 1987, p. 33