



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Hermes-mercury After An Ancient Model -- Neapolitan Grand Tour Bronze, Ca. 1860



690 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Bronze

Width : 18 cm

Height : 22 cm

Depth : 14 cm

Description

19th-century Italian school, circa 1860. Our sculpture is a reinterpretation of the Hellenistic type depicting the god at rest, as preserved in Roman copies: a lost Greek bronze, copied in the 1st century CE, the finest examples of which are preserved at the National Archaeological Museum of Naples. It depicts the god of travelers and merchants, Hermes, nude, resting on a rock--Mercury to the Romans, protector of merchants, travelers, and thieves, messenger of his father Jupiter. The god is seated, completely nude, his torso slightly bent forward, his head tilted and his gaze lowered: the pose suggests rest, not action. He is recognizable by his winged sandals, whose wings are chiseled at each ankle--the talaria, an attribute symbolizing the messenger's speed. The toes are rendered in

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detail right down to the nails: this is evidence of a high-quality cast. Our statue is a Neapolitan cast from the second half of the 19th century, commissioned for clients on the Grand Tour. At the time, the workshops in Naples supplied European travelers with miniature replicas of the great marble sculptures of Rome, Florence, and Naples. Bronze with a nuanced brown and green patina, circa 1860, of very fine quality. Very good condition. Dimensions: H 22 × W 18 × D 14 cm. Careful shipping, reinforced and insured packaging.