



19th Century Antique

A magnificent Florentine Renaissance style chimneypiece carved in Italian limestone. *See following page for further details.*

Dimensions

Height 67³/₄in (172cm) width 79¹/₈in (201cm)

Internal height 51¹/₈in (130cm) width 54¹/₂in (138.5cm)

Footblock to footblock 69¹/₂in (176.5cm)

Shelf depth 16¹/₂in (42cm)

Reference

I217

Further details

The cornice shelf, carved with egg & dart dentils, is reminiscent of early Renaissance palazzi and hangs above a carved frieze section, centred by a coin carved in low relief. Within the coin is a portrait, in profile, of a young Roman, his helmet pushed back above his face. The coin is upheld by a pair of centaurs which morph into ebullient sprays of acanthus and floral paterae. The helmet the young Roman wears occupies a middle ground between mask and Corinthian helmet. The C-scroll console jambs, carved with heraldic lion heads above concave fluted legs, stand on feathered paw feet.

The jambs carved with lion heads and the feathered claws of an eagle refer to the Griffin, a Greco-Roman mythical creature used widely in the Italian Renaissance as a heraldic emblem. The Griffin denotes military leadership and courage, but also great wealth as they were said to guard great hordes of gold. The lion and eagle were well-established icons in the 15th and 16th Century Renaissance and signify strength for the Medici family.

Notable similar examples can be found at the Palazzo Gondi in Florence, and chimneypieces by Benedetto da Rovezzano and the Palazzo Farnese by Giuliano & Antonio da Sangallo.