



**A gold brooch set with a fine Neoclassical agate cameo. Bust of Isis.**

Circa: 19th century

Agate, gold

H. 5.2 cm (2 inches)

Total weight: 29,4 gr

19th century

On this large double-layered cameo is sculpted a refined portrait of the divinity inspired by the neoclassical copy after a marble head in the Pio Clementino Museum (*Vaticani, Sala dei Busti*).

The Vaticani bust was acquired by Cardinal Albani and represents the Egyptian goddess Isis characterized by a central lotus formed from curly locks then considered an idealization of a female portrait.

The English sculptor Joseph Gott (*Londra 1785 - Roma 1860*) worked in Rome from 1822 carved a marble version of the same head, which was acquired by C.D.E. Fortnum in 1851 and is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (WA1889.CDEF.S35)— in the same taste as our cameo.

*Like Gott's version, the present marble varies from the antique model in its broadening of the truncation at the chest, indicating that it was carved by a skilled sculptor in Rome in the early or mid-19th century.*

The cameo is signed by a "W" engraved under the bust.

*For a similar portrait on an intaglio see Paoletti, v. II, T. V, n°85, an intaglio of Isis of Campidoglio by*

*MARCHANT.*

**Literature**

*PAOLETTI, v. II, Tomo V., n°85, Iside del Campidoglio - intaglio signed MARCHANT*