

ART ANCIENT



ROMAN MARBLE FIGURE OF JUPITER

Circa 2nd - 3rd Century AD
Height: 19.7 cm

PROVENANCE

Acquired by Henry Howard, 4th Earl of Carlisle, between 1714-1739 during his travels to Rome, and thence by descent

Subsequently Sotheby's, Castle Howard sale, 11 November 1991, lot 44

PUBLISHED

B. Borg & H. von Hesberg, A. Linfert, *Die antiken Skulpturen in Castle Howard*, MAR XXI, Wiesbaden, 2005, 69, Cat. no. 28, Pl. 24

Arachne 3827: Lower part of a statuette of Zeus/Jupiter, Castle Howard, Yorkshire, Western Staircase.

An extremely fine statuette, carved with great naturalism and retaining the original polish. Once in the collection of Henry Howard, 4th Earl of Carlisle (1694-1758), it was displayed alongside his family's illustrious collection of antiquities at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, one of the largest, grandest, and most iconic stately homes in the United Kingdom.

Carved in beautiful, fine-grained white marble, it preserves the feet and left leg of Jupiter, god of the sky and King of the Gods. The deity stands beside symbols of his authority and his connection to the heavens and nature: the eagle and the oak tree, emphasizing his supreme power and divine guardianship. Jupiter was central to Roman religion and mythology, symbolizing strength, justice, and divine rule.



Views of the Great Western Staircase of Castle Howard, North Yorkshire. The present piece is situated to the right of the bust (bottom).

'To view this miscellany of beauties, to gaze upon [Castle Howard's] collection of excellencies, a man of taste may in a few hours improve his mind and expand his views more than he would do in months by reading descriptions from the pens of the most picturesque and impressive authors.'

Henry Ibbotson (1816-1886), *The Visitor's Guide to Castle Howard*, pp. 5-6



Portrait of Henry Howard, 4th Earl of Carlisle (1694-1758) by Thomas Hudson, c.1756.

