

ART ANCIENT



ROMAN MARBLE FOOT FRAGMENT WITH SANDAL

Circa 1st - 2nd Century AD
Carved and polished marble
Length 20 cm

PROVENANCE

Collection of Danish sculptor Jens Adolf Jerichau (1816-1883)

Sold at the Jerichau estate sale in 1884, lot 47-50

Subsequently with Danish philosopher Prof. Claudius Wilkens (1844-1929)

Danish private collection, by inheritance.

An evocative Roman marble fragment, preserving the front portion of an over-life-size sandaled foot. The toes, nails, and bridge of the foot have been sensitively carved. The outer sole of the sandal remains, with delicate, pointed straps joining between the first two toes in a diamond shape.





Jens Jerichau (1816-1883)

This fragment once belonged to Danish sculptor Jens Adolf Jerichau (1816-1883). After working as an apprentice, he was admitted to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in 1831, to study painting before beginning to sculpt in 1836.

After graduating from the Academy in 1837, Jerichau lived for a time in Rome, where he worked in the studio of his famed contemporary Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844). His early works, such as *Hercules and Hebe* (1846), are strongly Neoclassical in style. However, it was his *The Panther Hunter* (1846), with its dynamism and emotion, that brought his international breakthrough, and earned him several prestigious commissions from Denmark and abroad.

It is most likely during his time in Rome - the Eternal City - that the artist acquired the present piece, and it formed part of his fine collection of ancient art. A reflective and melancholic character, Jerichau created a powerful *oeuvre* inspired by his admiration for classical fragments.



1 Sculptor Jens Jerichau, *the Artist's Husband*, by Elisabeth Jerichau Baumann, 1846. Oil on canvas, 142 x 95 cm. Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen.

2 J. A. Jerichau, *The Panther Hunter*, 1846. Bronze, 209 x 105 x 65 cm. Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen.

3 Claudius Wilkens (1844-1929) at his office desk, surrounded by his collection.