



18th Century Antique

A late 18th century statuary marble fireplace, in the neo-classical late Adam style, with superbly carved centre tablet with a reclining figure of Fortuna with her horse. Circa 1785. See following page for further details.

Dimensions

Height 59½in (151cm) width 72½in (184.3cm)

Internal height 43¾in (111cm) width 44in (111.8cm)

Footblock to footblock 66½in (168.5cm)

Shelf depth 9½in (24.5cm)

Reference

G330

Further details

The one-piece shelf breaking forward over the jambs, above a frieze centred with a finely carved relief, of a seated female figure of Fortuna, her left hand holding a cornucopia overflowing with fruits, while the other hand holds the bridle of a horse who looks at her attentively. The tablet is in the style of the sculptor Joseph Nollekins (1737-1823). Either side the tablet is flanked by side panels of finger flutes and end blockings carved with Cupid's bow and quiver. The pilaster jambs with inset panels, capped by inverted fan paterae, of foliate drops held by palmettes from which fall seven graduated intertwined leaf wreaths terminating with bell flower drops. The opening framed by carved mouldings and the whole on rectangular foot blocks.

This representation with the accompanying horse is the 'Fortuna Equistris' which meant the luck she brought was constant and not fickle. Fortuna (Latin: Fortūna, equivalent to the Greek goddess Tyche) was the goddess of fortune and the personification of luck in Roman religion. As here, Fortuna is often depicted with a gubernaculum (ship's rudder), a symbol of her ability to guide any project, institution or house through choppy waters, and a cornucopia (horn of plenty). Known colloquially in English Georgian discourse as 'Lady Luck'.