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## A PLASTER CAST OF “CENTAUR RAPING A LAPITH WOMAN”

The tenth metope from the South frieze of the Parthenon, cast from the 5th Century BC pentelic marble original at The Louvre, Paris, this cast later embellished with conjectural modelling of features lacking in the original

The classical tablet cast in deep relief with the rearing centaur over-coming the fleeing woman,

DIMENSIONS: 144cm (56<sup>3/4</sup>" ) High, 134cm (52<sup>3/4</sup>" ) Wide

STOCK CODE: 41490

### HISTORY

This metope block, originally part of the Centaurotomy series on the South frieze of the Parthenon was not salvaged by the notorious Scottish landowner Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin during his lootings of 1801-5 but was taken to France in a separate consignment. It was being sent by Louis François Sébastien Fauvel to the Comte de Choiseul-Gouffier, but was intercepted by the English and eventually sold at public auction in London. The fragment was then purchased by Elgin to enhance his own collection of marbles from the Parthenon; Elgin later returned it to its original owner (his collection was sold to the British Museum in 1816). The relief originally decorated the south facade of the Parthenon -part of the Doric frieze of ninety-two metopes alternating with triglyphs. The enormous Parthenon temple was built on the Acropolis at Athens between 447 and 432 BC. Its construction was part of a series of major works undertaken in the aftermath of the Persian Wars (490-480 BC) and the destruction wrought by the Persians. Pericles, who dominated Athenian political life from 464 to 429 BC, entrusted the overseeing of the Parthenon's construction to the sculptor Phidias, who worked with the architects Iktinos and Kallikrates. Research continues as to who embellished this casting with the conjectural heads and limbs – a fragment of the latter is held in the Acropolis Museum in Athens and it is known that the Centaur's original head must have been lost after 1674.