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THREE PIGEONS

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AN ENGLISH PLASTER CAST OF A SECTION OF COVED FRIEZE

Cast by the Victoria and Albert Museum c.1920 from the marble chimneypiece by Alfred Stevens then in The Dining Room of Dorchester House, Mayfair

The central Grecian head corbel flanked by divergent cornucopias,

DIMENSIONS: 46cm (18") High, 96.5cm (38") Wide, 23cm (9") Deep

STOCK CODE: 41683

HISTORY

The casting operation at The V&A had been principally overseen by Dominico Brucciani (and Company) from the mid 1860's. The V&A's own workshops took over casting operations for the Cast Courts shortly after the First World War. Presumably when the V&A cast the entire fireplace and erected it in the Cast Court galleries to display what has generally been credited as "the best chimneypiece from the 19th Century" they did not know that by 1931 they would have the chance to successfully acquire the marble original! The greyhound signifies the arms of Sir Robert Staynor Holford who had built Dorchester House from 1851. Holford had, uncharacteristically, given Stevens a free rein in the Dining Room. The chimneypiece stands at the V&A, much else can be seen in the Walker Gallery, Liverpool.