

BUST OF DACIAN PRINCE

Artist: Unknown

Date: Reign of Emperor Traianus (98-117 AD)

Dimensions: 182 cm

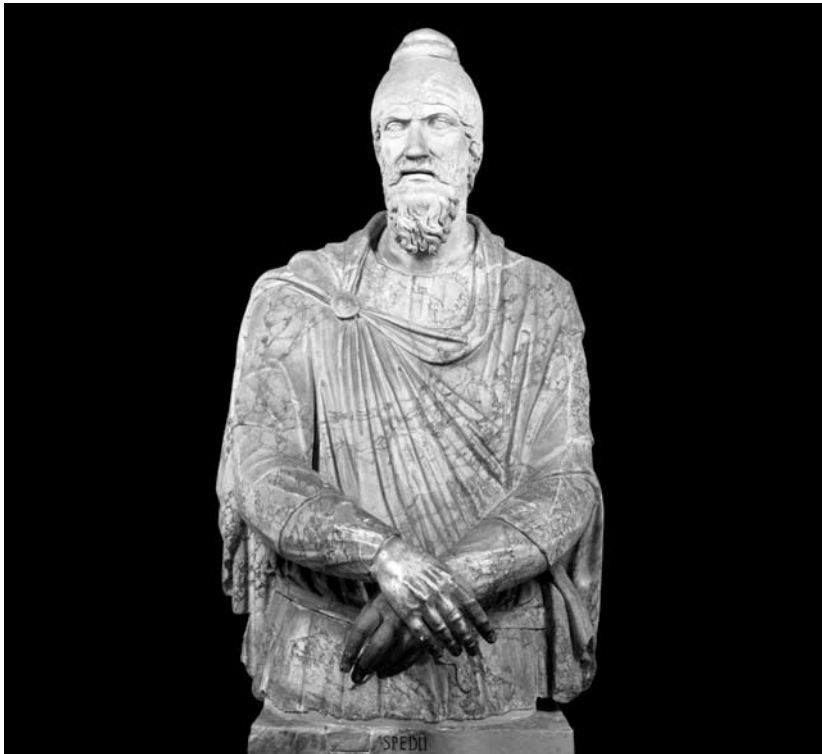
Material: Marble "pavonazzetto"

Inventory Number: 1697

Total Cost: € 16.455,00

This colossal torso depicts a Dacian prince dressed in a long tunic cinched at the waist by a *cingulum*, or belt, and a mantle covering most of the figure that is fastened on the right shoulder by a ring-shaped buckle. The sculpture was originally intended to be three meters tall. The arms are crossed in front of the body displaying a defeated attitude associated with the most popular iconographic representations of prisoners. This man is a high-ranking Dacus, as made evident by the presence of his typical pointed *pileus* cap, from which emerges a few tufts of hair at the temples. His eyes are focused in a pathetic expression strongly intensified by his unkempt beard.

The sculpture is made of *pavonazzetto* - a white marble extracted from purple veins in the quarries of ancient Phrygia, in the heart of Turkey. Along with many other sculptures of the same subject, this one must have been a part of the overall decorative scheme used to ornament the great Trajan Forum which was inaugurated by the Emperor in 113 AD. These *pavonazzetto* sculptures were larger than those in white marble, thus they were possibly placed on the top of the decorated arcade.



STATE OF PRESERVATION:

Currently, the Dace is covered by a thick layer of greasy dirt and dust that considerably obscures the readability of the work. It is possible to find numerous additions in marble and plaster portions rebuilt during previous restorations. It is certain that after careful cleaning, the sculpture will recover part of its original splendor. Once the surface is clean, it will also be possible to check the status of conservation of the original marble surface, as well as the small portions added in previous restorations.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Removal of dust
- Complete cleaning
- Consolidation of cracks and gaps
- Removal of previous restorations
- Removal of old metal portions (pin, pivot, needle) located inside
- Reintegration of missing parts
- Scientific research
- Photographic documentation