

PATRICK JEFFERSON



REGENCY GILT-BRONZE FIGURE HOLDING A BLACK PORPHYRY DISC

England *circa* 1805, attributed to William Bullock after a design by Giuseppe Valadier.

Provenance: Ferry & Clegg, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire; acquired from a private English collection.

Height 14" (36cm) Width 7" (18cm)

The figure standing on a tripod plinth holding an associated black porphyry disc; traces of gilding.

The caryatid is based on the Danaïdes from the Villa of the Papyri at Pompeii, that inspired a sculpture published by Bartolomeo Cavaceppi in his *Raccolta*, which was probably acquired by Principe Giovanni Torlonia from the sculptor's auction after his death. This figure is traditionally associated with Giuseppe Valadier on the basis of a drawing sent by him to Charles Heathcote Tatham (V&A, inv. D.1532-1898), for Henry Holland's decoration of Carlton House, commissioned for the Prince Regent, which shows a candlestick with a similarly draped figure holding a vase that relates to a clock by Luigi Valadier (d. 1839), previously at Southill Park. It can also be seen in candelabra by Francesco Righetti as well as the *surtout* by Giacomo Raffaelli, using bronze figures from the Righetti or Valadier workshops, for the court of Eugene de Beauharnais in Milan.

The attribution to the Liverpool sculptor William Bullock (d. 1849) of the 'Museum and Bronze figure Manufactory' is based on closely related mask-mounted tripod plinths that he patented in 1805. A near identical chimera foot was also used on a pair of lamp bases supplied in 1803 to the 1st Marquess of Exeter, modelled by Francis Hardenberg R.A. (fl. 1783-d. 1852) of Mount Street.

The disc of black porphyry (*porfido serpentino nero*), a rare hardstone discovered in AD18 by Caius Cominius Leugas at The Roman quarry of Mons Porphyrites, is exactly the type of ancient object that would have been revered in the Regency period. This enigmatic disc, reminiscent of Chinese archaic jade *bi*, presumably replaces another circular object, perhaps a mirror or a clock.

£5,900

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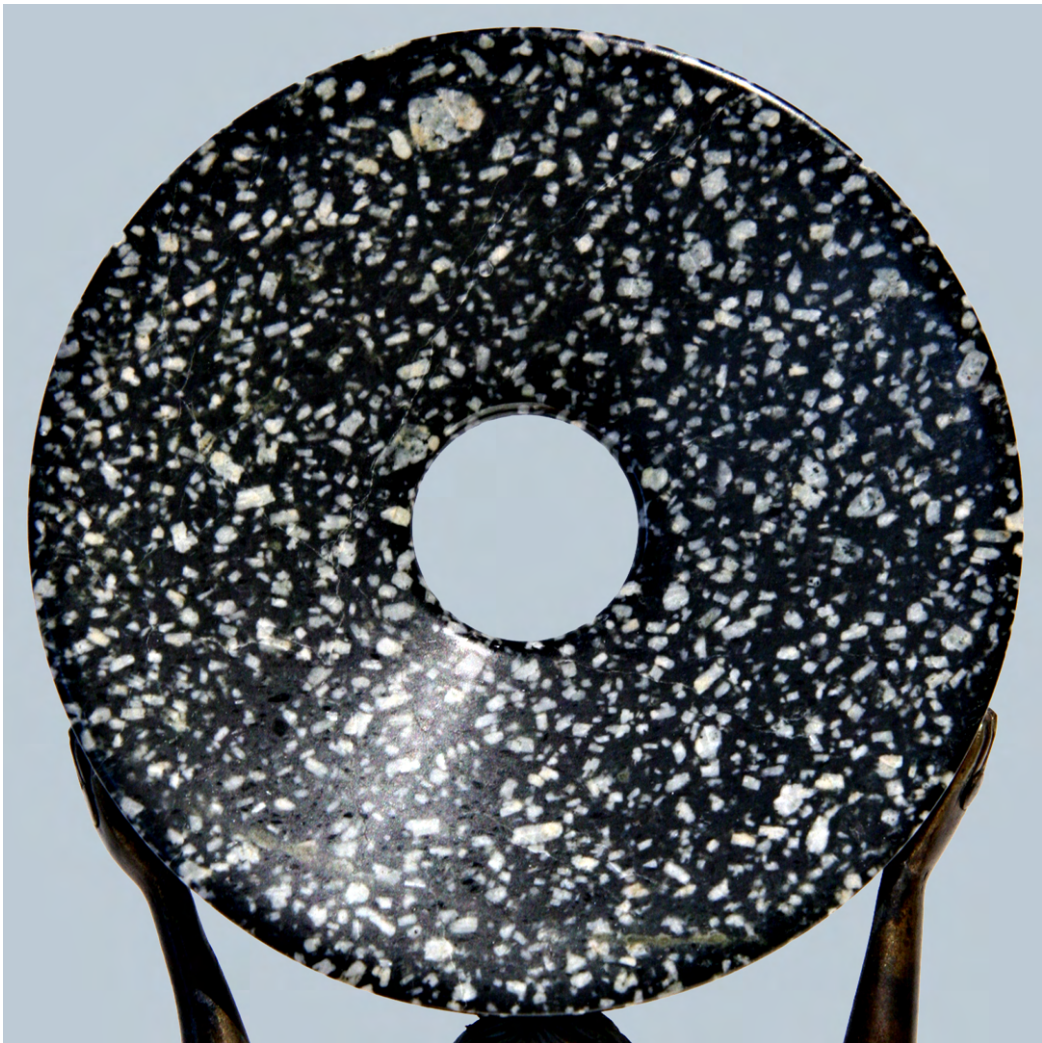


Fig. 1



Fig. 1. Engraving of a sculpture now in the Torlonia Collection from Cavaceppi's *Raccolta*, circa 1768, Rome



Fig.3

Fig.2