

Basic Detail Report



Mary Howitt

Date

1875

Primary Maker

Margaret Foley

Medium

Carrara marble

Description

This is a circular marble plaque, 23 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep, with a relief portrait carved on the recto.

The portrait shows an elderly woman facing left. She

wears a lace shawl over the back half of her head, extending down over her shoulders and clasped at her neck with a round brooch. The lace shawl is decorated with a pattern of vines, leaves, and flowers, with circular holes drilled throughout to give its surface a complex texture, a mixture of low and high relief. The center of the medallion is carved out to form a well roughly 1 inch deep, containing the portrait relief, within an outer frame border roughly 1 7/8 inches wide. The background area between the figure and border is smooth and flat. Along the lower rim of the frame, a raised carved banner/ribbon bears in raised letters the name of the sitter "MARY HOWITT." Between the border and sitter's neck, the artist's name and date are incised: "MARGARET FOLEY. SC. ROMA 1875." On the face of the brooch is carved "ROMA." The verso is flat, with metal brackets and wires affixed as a hanging apparatus. The brackets extend just around the outer edge of the frame to secure the marble. In the upper center region of the verso is a lightened discolored region where a label was once attached. This paper label, torn and with some areas missing, now accompanies the object in a separate envelope. On it appears handwritten in brown ink: "Likening of / "Mary Howitt" / Property of Artist / F. M. Foley / Price in value of gold / \$500 / 53 Margutta Rome."

Dimensions

2 x 23 in. (5.1 x 58.4 cm)