



Micromosaic plate "The shepherd", early 19th Century

Era: early 19th century.

Materials: micromosaic.

Dim (in): L 2 in / H 1.2 in.

Dim (cm): L 5 cm / H 3 cm.

Rectangular micromosaic plate featuring a shepherd, seated and resting with his dog at his feet. The shepherd is wearing a woolen cloak over his colorful clothes. He is holding a hat in his left hand and his staff in his right. A wicker basket at his feet is filled with a bouquet of flowers and a bunch of grapes.

This pastoral theme is characteristic of the micromosaic production of Gioacchino Barberi (1783-1857), a mosaic artist who worked in the Piazza di Spagna in Rome during the first half of the 19th century. His work was heavily influenced by Bartolomeo Pinelli's (1781-1835) engravings, *Shepherds in the Roman Countryside* and *Dancers in Roman Costume*. This type of plate would have been purchased by wealthy tourists during their "Grand Tour" of Europe and then later set on a snuff box. Roman production. Circa 1820-1830.