



Empire Diadem comb in gold with micromosaic

Era: Empire Period.

Materials: gold, micromosaic.

Diadem length: 7.1 in (18 cm) Comb length: 3.9 in (10 cm)

Gold marks: Two shells.

Diadem comb in gold featuring seven oval, micromosaic medallions. The comb of the diadem is composed of four removable, blonde tortoiseshell teeth. The curved diadem features micromosaic medallions set on a coral red background. Each medallion features an ancient Roman monument such as Cecilia Metella's tomb, the Pyramid of Cestius, views of the Campo Vaccino, the Forum, and the Temple of Jupiter. These scenes are similar to engravings by Domenico Pronti. The medallions are set in elegant, scrolling filigree work and are underlined with a frieze of stylized foliage. The early 19th century saw a renewal in hair ornamentation of this type. Diadem combs were comprised of a comb and removable headband, which allowed the wearer to change the headband to match a variety of dresses. Circa 1800.

Bibliography: Joannis, Claudette. Bijoux des deux Empires : mode et sentiment. 1804-1870. Somogy éditions d'art. 2004.