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Roman Marble Portra t of Julia Domna



An ancient Roman marble portrait of Empress Julia Domna. Her oval face is framed by a voluminous, shoulder-length coiffure, styled in a series of even waves covering the ears and formed into two plaits which are loosely coiled to form a flat spiral at the nape of the neck.

Severan Period.
Ca. 196 - 211 AD.
Height: 13 1/2 in. (33 cm).

Julia Domna was intelligent, beautiful and influential, the daughter of the Syrian priest of Baal, she married Septimius Severus in ca. 186 AD. She surrounded herself with poets and intellectuals. There are many surviving portraits of her, attesting to her popularity. She starved herself to death in 217 AD following the assassination of Caracalla. The hairstyle that she favored became a trend of the Severan period.

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Formerly in a New York private collection; previously in a Swiss private collection.

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