



EARLY 20TH CENTURY BRONZE BUST OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BY RAPHAEL NANNINI

\$3,900

SKU: 261-50

Stock: N/A

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This distinguished antique 57 pound bronze bust portrays Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821), the renowned French military leader and emperor who dominated much of Europe in the early 19th century. Depicted wearing his iconic bicorne hat and military coat, Napoleon is rendered with solemn authority and introspective restraint, reflecting the academic realism favored in late 19th-century historical sculpture. Executed in bronze and signed on the reverse Raphael Nannini, the bust exemplifies Nannini's refined approach to portraiture and historical subjects. Active in the late 19th century, Nannini was known for his disciplined modeling, attention to anatomical accuracy, and ability to convey character through subtle expression rather than overt dramatization. His work aligns with the Italian realist and Neoclassical traditions that remained influential during this period. The sculpture bears a fully engraved presentation inscription reading: "A.C. Penn / From the New York Salesmen / January Thirty-First Nineteen Thirteen." Such inscriptions indicate a bespoke commemorative or testimonial object, likely commissioned as a professional or corporate tribute. While the dedication is dated 1913, the sculpture itself reflects late 19th-century artistic conventions and was likely conceived or cast shortly before the turn of the century, consistent with Nannini's active period. The bronze retains a rich, time-softened brown patina with natural highlights along the hat brim, collar, and coat folds, consistent with age and use. The bust is mounted on a veined marble base, which is not original, but is period-appropriate in character and provides strong architectural presence. A refined and historically resonant antique sculpture, this bust would make a commanding statement in a library, study, office, or collection focused on Napoleonic history or late 19th-century European bronze portraiture. Dimensions: 14"W x 8.5"D x 19"H (including base) Weight: 57 pounds