

anne•marie
monin

BENEDETTO BOSCHETTI

ATTRIBUTED TO

(ACTIVE IN ROME 1820-1860)

PAIR OF GRAND TOUR OBELISKS

OBELISCO FLAMINIO AND OBELISCO LATERANESE



ROME, ITALY

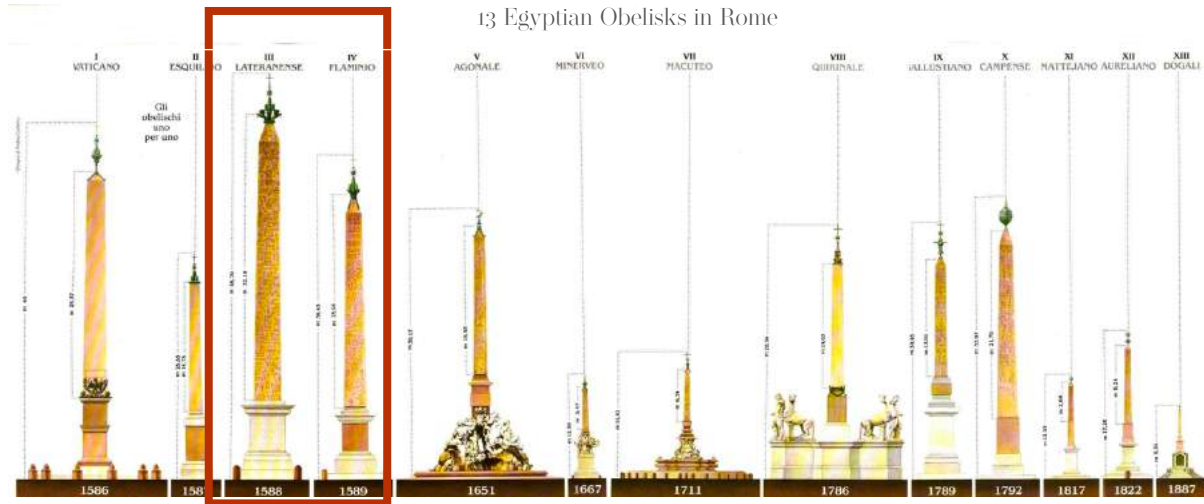
FIRST HALF 19TH CENTURY

RED ANTIC MARBLE AND BLACK MARBLE FOR THE BASE

DIMENSIONS : HEIGHT 32 1/4 IN – WIGHT 6 1/16 IN

27, Quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris

Our pair of obelisks are the reduction representations of the *Obelisco Flaminio* and the *Obelisco Lateranese*, which were brought from Egypt and are present in Rome since the 1st century for one and 4th century for the other.



The antique red marble obelisks are carved with Egyptian hieroglyphs and rest on a square molded pedestal with Latin inscriptions. A black marble base completes the structure. The Flaminio and Lateranese obelisks are the oldest of the thirteen Egyptians Obelisks present in Rome.

The *Flaminio Obelisks*, also called the Obelisk of Augustus, is one of the first to arrive in Rome on the orders of the emperor Augustus. The obelisk comes from the Temple of Re in Heliopolis and dates from the 13th century BC. It bears inscriptions in the name of Sethi I and his son Ramses II. The Flaminio Obelisk was erected around the year 10 BC on the Spina of Circo Massimo, then re-erected by Sixte Quint on the Piazza del Popolo in 1589. It is considered as the one with the most beautiful hieroglyphs.



The Lateranese Obelisk, also known as the Obelisk of St. John Lateran dates from the 15 century BC. It is the largest of the known Egyptian obelisks in Rome: it measures 45,05 m. It was found broken in three pieces at 7 meters deep at Circo Massimo in 1587. However, it lacks the tip of its tip, which had been broken. Augustus had not succeeded in getting it transported from Karnak, so it was Constantine in 337 who had transported the obelisk to Thebes, and his son Constantius II, his successor, who had sent it to Rome in 357 to take place at Circo Massimo next to the Obelisk of Augustus.



This pair of obelisks was certainly intended for Grand Tour enthusiasts who visited the Boschetti workshop.

We can compare our two obelisks to the one attributed to Benedetto Boschetti, kept today in the collection of the Prado Museum in Madrid. (Here-below)



Benedetto Boschetti, attributed to
Obelisco Flaminio

First half 19th century, before 1851

Red marble, black marble

121 cm x 115,5 cm

Royal collection:

Given to Queen Elizabeth II by Pius IX:

Given to the Museum in 1851

Benedetto Boschetti Workshop

The workshop of Benedetto Boschetti, located at 74, via Condotti in the heart of Rome, has become a must-visit place for the travelers of the Grand Tour by the quality of the art pieces it produced.

Benedetto Boschetti was considered as the most eclectic and certainly the most visionary virtuoso of all *marmorari*. Active around 1820-1870, the Boschetti Workshop was exhibited at the Crystal Palace in 1851 and was renowned for the outstanding quality of its antique copies.



Giovanni Paolo Panini (1691-1765)

Capriccio Romain

1735

Oil on canvas

99 x 135,8 cm

Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis



The Grand Tour

The Grand Tour was originally a long trip to Europe organized for young people from the highest classes of British and German societies, but also French, Dutch, Polish, Scandinavian and later Russian.

This aristocratic educational trip was intended to perfect their education and raise their centers of interest. During these trips, the young people visited the ancient Roman ruins, as well as Pompei and Herculaneum recently discovered. According to their financial means, they bought pieces of art and antiques in memory of their journey, including marble and ancient statues. The Grand Tour travelers sponsored modern artists while trading in antiques.

These souvenirs, arranged in their homes, reminded visitors that they had the privilege of traveling to the sources of the civilized world.