

A North Italian Circular Tortoiseshell and Gold Mounted Snuff box with a wood micro-carving attributed to Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo, depicting an urn with rams' heads and a large floral flanked by trophies on a draped base with in a tooled border and aventurine decorated box. Turin, late 18th Century.

Diameter: 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (8 cm)

Provenance: Property from Villa D'Aglié, Turin.

Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo was born in Asti in 1745, as the first son of Giovanna Margherita Burzio, he settled in Turin only from 1773, being elected to the prestigious 'Pia Società e Sodalizio di San Luca', the following year. He was to work for the next 20 years as a sculptor and cabinet-maker whose large workshops supplied the Court of Savoy among other important clients. He was appointed Court wood-carver to Victor Amadeus III, King of Savoy, in 1787, remaining in that position until the French invasion of 1796 and was re-instated in 1815 following the downfall of Napoleon, until his death in 1820. He was justly famed for the breathtaking finesse of his 'microsculture' carved in box and other light woods as well as for his more conventional but always beautifully-made furniture. .

Comparative Examples :

- Sotheby's, 17 nov 2009, A Piedmontese Villa, The Contents of Vigna Corte di Buonvicino Moncalieri (Turin), Lot.60, Sold for 8,750£.