

An Italian circular marble tabletop with a design of concentric bands inlaid with geometrical patterns, with a complex star motif in the centre including green and white marble, red and green porphyry, hardstones, agates, and other stones, attributed to Francesco Sibilio.

The green and white marble and the green and red porphyry presumably came from excavations.

Rome, First half 19th Century.

Diameter: 20,27 in. (51.5 cm)

Condition report: in overall good condition.
Very minor scratches to the top.



The geometric design of this specimen marble top and the method of arrangement is closely to the work of Francesco Sibilio, a pietra dura craftsman active in Rome during the first half of 19th Century.

There are very few recorded examples of his work: one was in the Gilbert Collection (see the Gilbert Collection hardstones, V&A publications, pp.89-90), sold in Sotheby's, London, 3 December 2019, lot 12, for 13.750£.

He's known to have incorporated ancient materials from contemporaneous excavations and used vitreous coloured grouts to enrich his geometric inspired designs. This tabletop presents a similar design of concentric bands inlaid with geometrical patterns, with a complex star motif in the centre.

Literature:

- A. M. Massinelli, with contributions by Jeanette Hanisee Gabriel, *Hardstones: The Gilbert Collection*, London, 2000, cat. no. 24, pp. 88-89.
- Gonzalez-Palacios, 'Lavori di Sibilio', *L'Armadio Delle Meraviglie*, Milan, 1991, p. 86.