



**THE DUKE OF HAMILTON ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN
MOSSMAN (1817-1890)**

Dimensions: H: 29.5 in / 75 cm | W: 14 in / 35 cm | D: 9.5 in / 24 cm

10351



The Duke of Hamilton

Attributed to John Mossman (1817-1890)

Carved from Carrara marble, the stately likeness of the 11th Duke shown facing slightly dexter, in Greco-Roman fashion, with bare torso, strong features and tousled hair. Unsigned.

Scottish, circa 1863

A signed bronze bust sharing many formal features, by Mossman, was cast in 1869 for the Duke's Monument at Barncluith, today on view at Low Parks Museum. According to Rupert Gunnis's biographical entry on the artist, Mossman executed a bust of the Duke a few years earlier in 1863, possibly a reference to the present bust which may have been used to model the bronze version six years of the Duke's death.

Literature:

11th Duke of Hamilton (1811-1863)

William Alexander Archibald Hamilton (1811-1863), the 11th Duke of Hamilton, was a Scottish nobleman who served as Knight Marischal of Scotland. He held deep connections to literary and political royalty: his maternal grandfather was the famous English collector William Beckford (at one point England's richest commoner), and his wife, Princess Marie Amélie of Baden, was the adopted granddaughter of Napoleon I.

Taking very little interest in British affairs, the Duke lived largely in Paris and Baden. Living large, he was known for regularly driving down the Champs-Élysées in a carriage drawn by twelve horses.

After inheriting the title of Duke in 1852, he purchased a grand home at 22 Arlington Street in London, lavishing significant expenses on its renovation over a decade. An avid collector, he sold off his Lancashire estates in 1853 to fund his passion for acquiring rare books, antiquities, and decorative arts.