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Relief: Portrait medallion: Frederik V (1723/46-66)

- Signed 'K' at the bottom, to the right of the ribbon,
- Copenhagen 1764.
- H. 4.9 W. 4.8. Th. 0.45-0.7 cm. Inv. 13-482.
- White, polished ivory with vertical veining, carved in low relief. Inscribed on the back in ink: P 352.
- In a circular, turned frame of black-lacquered wood from the nineteenth century.

The head of the king is in profile facing right, and is shown as Roman *imperator* wearing laurels and with a ribbon at the back of his neck. A little drapery can be seen at the throat. The portrait is a good likeness but without deeper personal characteristics. However, it constitutes an early contribution to the arrival of Neoclassicism in Copenhagen. Other examples that can be mentioned are an intaglio carved by Lorenz Natter in 1757, and the equestrian statue on Amalienborg Palace Square modelled by Jacques François Saly in 1758 and as a two-*rigsdaler* coin from 1764. On these, the king's right ear can be seen, which is covered here by the ample hair. No model that might have been used by Kern is known.

PROVENANCE: RA PK 1764 voucher 104 of 19 March - His Royal Majesty's portrait carved in ivory, 10 Rigsdaler, 1909 as a bequest from Prince Hans to RB, NT no. 111.

LITERATURE: Nau 1966 51, no. 110 (Natter), Salling 1973 (Saly), Hede 1978 82 no. 27 (2 *rigsdaler* coin).

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES: Faaborg 1911 no. 374.

ERIK CHRISTIANUS KERN (ACTIVE 1757-65) • CAT. NO. 247

Engraver, Kern's date of birth, origin and training are unknown, but from 1757 he can be followed in the royal accounts, where he is mentioned first as '*studioso*', and in 1761-64 he was granted support to attend the Academy of Art. In 1764, Kern applied for the post of court modeller, and during his studies he probably supplemented his income as a copper engraver.² According to the accounts, Kern mainly worked in wax and primarily executed medallion portraits, busts and

figures of the royals, both in the form of ancestor series and of Frederik V and Queen Louise.³ The present medallion is Kern's only work in ivory.

1. Wellbach 4, 1995 (Peter Kristiansen).

2. Faaborg (see Unpublished Source) mentions four illustrations in Nicolai Jonge's

Geographisk eller forbeskrivelse, published in Copenhagen from 1759 on.

3. Besides the works listed in the Privy Purse Accounts and mentioned in Wellbach, see RA PK *Cabinet* accounts 11 April 1757, 17 February and 17 August 1758; 24 May and 18 September 1759.