



On the Antique Painting in Encaustic of Cleopatra (Paperback)

By John Sartain

Blurb, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.What did Cleopatra really look like? On the front cover is a replica of the original painting of Cleopatra, commissioned by Octavian Augustus on August 12, 30 B.C. Furious at her suicide, which deprived him of his plans to make her take part in the Roman tradition of parading prisoners in chains through the streets of Rome, Octavian ordered the artist Timomachus (who had earlier painted Cleopatra for Mark Antony) to create a new portrait of the Queen at the moment of her death. The finished portrait, in the encaustic technique, was mounted on a cart that was drawn slowly along the route of the victory parade. It caused a sensation and was viewed by thousands. Later, Octavian had it placed in the Temple of Venus as an offering where it was kept on public display for many years. Many years later, the Emperor Hadrian acquired it for his extensive art collection that was housed at his villa in Tivoli, outside of Rome. The painting, at some time after Hadrian's death, was placed in a wooden crate and hidden in a cellar at Hadrian...



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