Photograph

Place of origin: Venice (made)
Date: late 19th century (made)
Artist/Maker: Fratelli Alinari (photographer)
Materials and Techniques: albumen print
Museum number: PH.5899.1890
Gallery location: In Storage

Descriptive line
Photograph by Fratelli Alinari of a bronze pedestal for a flagstaff by Alessandro Leopardi, in the Piazza di S. Marco, Venice, albumen print, late 19th century

Physical description
Photograph mounted on card showing a bronze pedestal for a flagstaff

Dimensions
Height: 33 cm mount approx, Width: 26.7 cm mount approx

Museum number
PH.5899.1890

Object history note
This photograph is part of a collection of photographs recently discovered in the Sculpture Section among archival material that relates to the V&A’s celebrated Cast Courts. The photographs document objects in the Cast Courts, including originals from which the casts were made. The staff member who assembled this collection of photographs organised them chronologically in terms of the year that the V&A acquired the casts. Each photograph had also been indexed to the corresponding object in the V&A cast collection.

From the very beginning, the V&A commissioned and collected photographs as a way of extending the visual resources of the Museum to artists and students of art and design. Architectural and topographical photographs, as well as photographs of art objects such as these, would have been collected by the National Art Library to be used as reference material. By the late 1970s, in conjunction with the formation of the Photograph Collection as a curatorial section with the remit of collecting ‘photography as a work of art’, many of the photographs with particular relevance to other departments within the V&A were transferred in bulk to the corresponding curatorial offices. The organisation by cast date and indexing to the V&A’s casts confirms their status as reference objects.

The discovery and cataloguing of these photographs is part of the ongoing programme to reunite photographs scattered among the various departments of the Museum with the rest of the Photography Collection. They come from the same initial sources as the Photographs Collection, and are worthy of reconsideration, both as museum objects and as an important contextual reference source for not only the Cast Courts but the collections of the Museum as a whole.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1329850/photograph-fratelli-alinari/