

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Coronation of the Virgin

Paolo Veneziano (Italian, ca. 1295–1362)

Date 1358

Medium Tempera on panel

Dimensions 43 1/4 x 27 in. (109.9 x 68.6 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1930

Accession Number 1930.1.124

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 30, Gold-Grounds Room

Commentary The Coronation of the Virgin is recounted not in the New Testament but in the apocryphal story of the Virgin's death. In many Coronation scenes painted by Paolo and other Venetian artists a sun and a moon accompany the principal figures, the sun from early times being associated with Christ and the moon with the Virgin. The angels singing and playing musical instruments in the Frick panel symbolize the harmony of the universe; their instruments are the authentic components of a medieval orchestra, accurately depicted and correctly held and played. The inscription along the base of the throne is drawn from the Eastertide antiphon *Regina coeli*. The decorative sparkle of the surface — with its brilliant, expensive colors, patterned textiles, and lavish gold leaf — reflects the Venetians' love of luxury, a taste that enriches as well much of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century architecture in Venice. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Probably from a chapel near Ravenna. Count Bacinetti. J. Maillinger, Munich (1867). Bought by the painter Franz Reichardt, Munich, in 1873. Bought from Reichardt in 1873 or 1874 for the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. Sold at the dispersal of the Royal collections at Sigmaringen, about 1928. Knoedler. Frick, 1930. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.