

# The Frick Collection: Detail Report

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Frederick II, King of Prussia (b. 1712; r. 1740–86)

Johann George Holtzhey (Dutch, 1729–1808)

**Date** dated 1786

**Medium** Silver, struck

**Dimensions** Diam.: 1 13/16 in. (4.53 cm)

**Credit Line** Dr. Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher Collection

**Accession Number** SCHER.2014.15.609

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 32, Medals Room

**Commentary** This medal was made to mark the death of Frederick the Great, an exceptional military strategist under whose rule Prussia became Europe's foremost military power. A champion of Enlightenment ideals, the monarch had a penchant for French culture and entertained such figures as Voltaire at Sanssouci, his summer palace in Potsdam. The reverse celebrates both aspects of his persona, with contemporary and classical military articles placed to the right of the urn and items to its left celebrating Frederick's intellectual pursuits (including what is probably his first book, *Oeuvres du Philosophe de Sans Souci*). The number XIII circumscribed by the wreath may refer to the number of Prussian victories during the Seven Years' War. Source: Scher, Stephen K., et al. *The Scher Collection of Commemorative Medals*. New York and London, 2019.