

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Leonello d'Este (1407–1450)

Pisanello (Antonio di Puccio Pisano) (Italian, ca. 1395–1455)

Date dated 1444

Medium Copper alloy, cast

Dimensions Diam.: 3 7/8 in. (9.9 cm)

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

Accession Number SCHER.2014.15.72

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 32, Medals Room

Commentary Leonello was trained in the traditional disciplines, as well as the martial arts. In 1444, he married Maria of Aragon, the illegitimate daughter of Alfonso V of Aragon (1396–1458), King of Naples and Sicily. The reverse alludes to the occasion: Cupid (Love) tames the lion (a pun on Leonello's name); the eagle is a charge on the Este coat of arms. The billowing sail on the pillar is one of Leonello's personal device probably signifying the Latin motto "festina lente" (make haste slowly), while the pillar is an allusion to Fortitude. Source: Scher, Stephen K., et al. The Scher Collection of Commemorative Medals. New York and London, 2019.