

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Gianfrancesco Gonzaga di Rodigo (obverse);
Allegory of Fortune (reverse)

Antico (Pier Jacopo Alari Bonacolsi) (Italian, ca. 1460–1528)

Date ca. 1490

Medium Bronze

Dimensions Diam.: 1 9/16 in. (3.98 cm)

Credit Line Gift of Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher, 2016

Accession Number 2016.2.127

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 32, Medals Room

Commentary The youngest son of Lodovico II Gonzaga, Gianfrancesco served as a condottiere for King Ferrante I of Naples. In 1479, he married the Neapolitan princess Antonia del Balzo, and they established their court in Bozzolo, near Mantua. This medal is the last of a series of eight made by Antico from about 1478–79 to 1486–90. Gianfrancesco is portrayed all'antica, while in earlier portraits he appears younger and in contemporary court attire. The reverse probably alludes to Gianfrancesco's military achievements. The male and female figures flanking Fortune are traditionally identified as Mars and Minerva, but they could symbolize "military defeat" (the bound youth) and Victory. Source: Scher, Stephen K., et al. *The Scher Collection of Commemorative Medals*. New York and London, 2019.