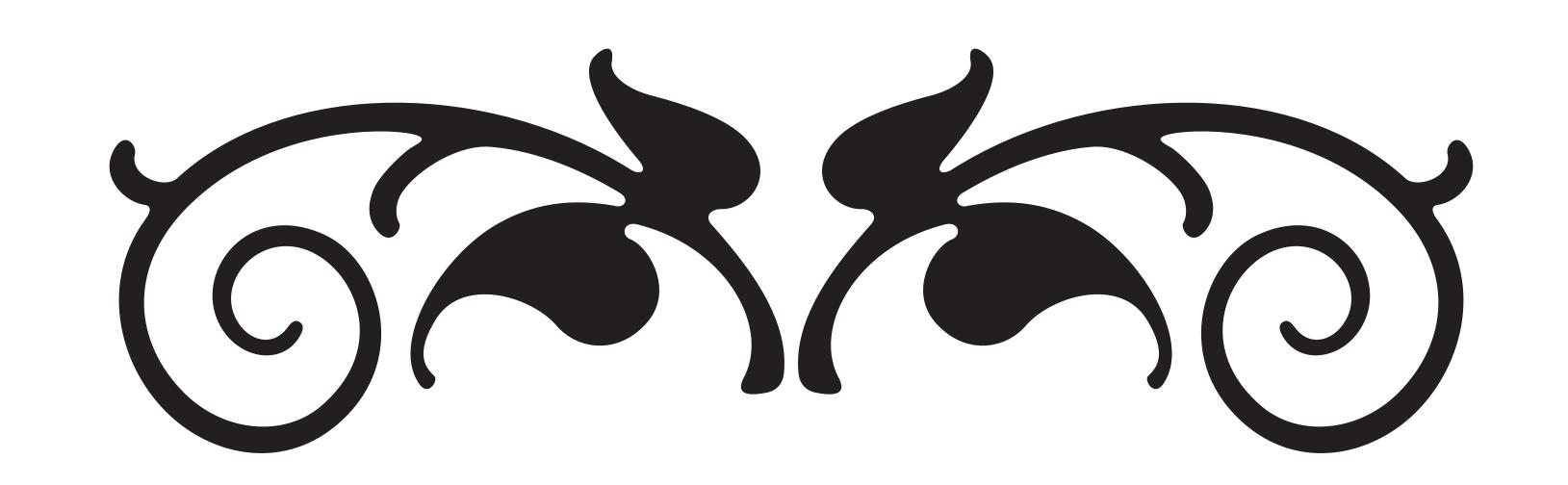
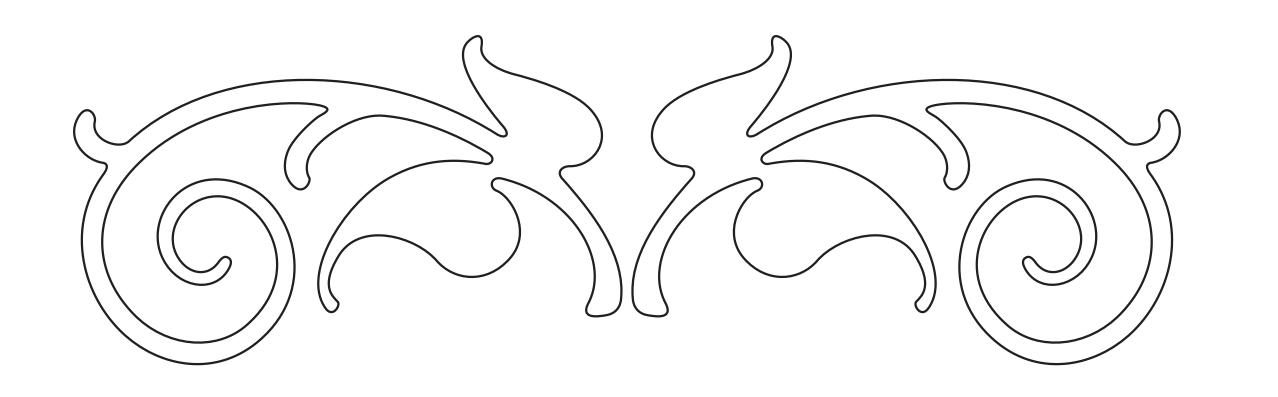


SHARING IMAGES



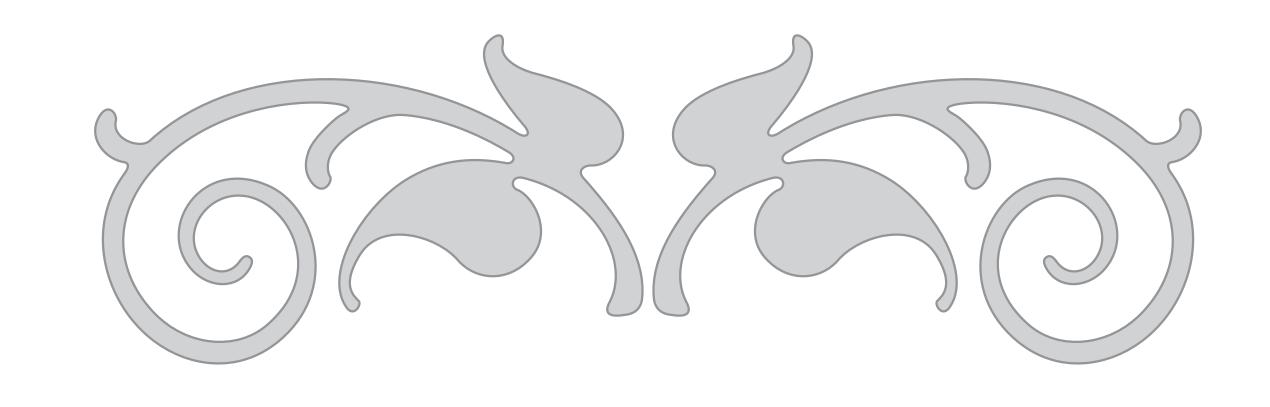
Renaissance Prints into Maiolica and Bronze





SHARING IMAGES

RENAISSANCE PRINTS INTO MAIOLICA AND BRONZE



ITALY

The fifteenth century in Europe was an age of technological revolution. The development of the arts of printing images and books transformed the way Europeans shared and absorbed

visual and verbal information. Produced in multiples, easily transportable, relatively affordable, and almost immediately employed as visual models, both prints and illustrated books influenced artists and craftsmen across the continent more profoundly than any other medium, and their impact was nowhere more conspicuous than in the production of maiolica (tin-glazed ceramics) and bronze plaquettes.

By the late 1400s, glazing techniques that had been developed and closely guarded for centuries by Islamic craftsmen were mastered by Italian potters. Their use of a tin glaze provided a pure white background for the pottery painters, who also benefited from a dramatic expansion of pigments available to them.

The tin greatly reduced the chance of the glaze running when

fired in a kiln, enabling artists to paint detailed scenes on ceramics known as *istoriato* ware (meaning painted with stories).

Around the same time, the interest in classical antiquity led Italian sculptors to revive the ancient art of bronzecasting and to make bronze statuettes and small, decorative plaques, which served as collectors' items, desk accessories, or decorative fittings for furniture or other objects. The cre-

ative interaction between these phenomena—printed images, tin-glazed ceramics, and cast bronzes—is the theme that runs through this exhibition.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust.

Additional funding is provided by The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art.

#Maiolica

Antiquity and Michelangelo

Engravings produced in Rome depicting its numerous ancient statues, buildings, reliefs, and inscriptions spread a growing knowledge of the remains of Roman art and architecture more rapidly and effectively than ever before. Prints reproducing the city's artistic treasures could be seen and copied by artists near and far, becoming a powerful catalyst of artistic renewal and creating a shared visual culture throughout Europe.

One of the most imitated images was also one of the most recently rediscovered. When an ancient marble statue depicting the Trojan priest Laocoön and his sons being killed by snakes was unearthed in a Roman vineyard in 1506, it sparked a frenzy of excitement. Almost immediately, the statue was reproduced in paintings, drawings, bronze statues, and prints, which transformed the dramatic sculpture into one of the first "viral" images of the early modern period.

Ancient art was a fundamental source of inspiration for Michelangelo (1475–1564), who was present at the unearthing of the *Laocoön*. Populated by muscular bodies in dynamic poses, Michelangelo's so-called presentation drawings (works meant as personal gifts for his intimate friends) reveal a taste for mythological subjects and erudite allegories that would have appealed to his aristocratic patrons. Against Michelangelo's expressed wishes these refined drawings were copied in other drawings, carved gems, bronze plaquettes, and prints. These in turn were quickly copied onto ceramics. Broadcast through print, Michelangelo's designs were thus shared with a wider audience than the artist had ever intended.

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THE INFLUENCE OF RAPHAEL

Inlike his contemporary Michelangelo, Raphael (1483 – 1520) fully embraced the new medium of print. By collaborating with a team of printmakers, which included Marcantonio Raimondi and Marco Dente, Raphael oversaw the production of many engravings that spread the knowledge of his elegant designs, as well as his fame and influence. Indeed, prints after Raphael were by far the most important models for Italian ceramics. His designs for frescoes, tapestries, and prints appear on sixteenth-century plates, bowls, flasks, and wine-coolers with such frequency that some nineteenth-century collectors referred to maiolica painted with narrative scenes (istoriato) as "Raphael ware."

While the works displayed in this room demonstrate the widespread and enduring influence of prints issuing from Raphael's workshop, they also highlight the pottery painters' sometimes ingenious approach to copying and repurposing. Some compositions were faithfully translated onto the surface of the plate, while others were altered, excerpted, reversed, or even combined with printed designs by other artists. The work of the talented maiolica painter Francesco Xanto Avelli (1486/1487 – after 1542), in particular, is distinguished by a remarkably inventive cutting and pasting of figures to create new works of art.

Parmigianino, Rosso Fiorentino, and Caraglio

A fter the sudden and premature death of Raphael in 1520, two young and extremely talented artists, Francesco Mazzola, called Parmigianino (1503–1540), and Giovanni Battista di Jacopo, known as Rosso Fiorentino (1494–1540), moved to Rome to study its artistic treasures, seek patronage, and advance their budding careers. They both followed Raphael's example by collaborating with printmakers to publish their designs, primarily with Gian Jacopo Caraglio (c. 1500–1565), who was evidently associated with Raphael's workshop. Parmigianino even made prints himself in the recently introduced technique of etching, something Raphael had never attempted. Crucially, only the works that Parmigianino and Rosso broadcast in print (as opposed to their paintings) were ever copied on maiolica, highlighting the vital role prints played in shaping the artists' public image.

Other artists from Raphael's circle, such as his pupil Giulio Romano (1499–1546) and Baldassare Peruzzi (1481–1537), continued to collaborate with printmakers from Raphael's workshop into the 1520s. Together, the Roman prints produced in that decade contributed to spreading and popularizing an emergent style often referred to as mannerism. In general, mannerist artists rejected the rational balance, realism, and classical proportions of the previous generation in favor of elegant distortions, fanciful compositions, and an emphasis on artifice and the idiosyncrasies of personal style.

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ITALY AND THE NORTH

In the age of print, artists and craftsmen could respond to ideas and images produced in faraway places more easily than ever before. For the visual arts, the rapid diffusion of prints and illustrated books throughout Europe after 1450 led to the diminishing importance of traditional, local models in favor of a broader, often international outlook. Crossing distances as well as borders, printed books were from the very outset marketed to a wide audience, while printed images intensified and accelerated the already established artistic ties between Italy and northern Europe. For instance, Albrecht Dürer's technically astonishing prints were greatly admired and frequently copied in Italy. In turn, Italian prints and bronzes inspired by the art of classical antiquity shaped the development of northern artists, including Lucas Cranach and Dürer himself.

The works in this gallery shed light on the cycle of influence enabled by single-sheet prints and illustrated books. Within a century, the groundbreaking and boundary-crossing technologies of print completely transformed the production and appearance of art on the continent, contributing to the emergence of a common European visual culture.

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Mantegna and Bronze



ourt painter to the princely Gonzaga family that ruled Mantua in northern Italy, the Paduan Andrea Mantegna (c. 1431–1506) was one of the most innovative artists of his generation. As a result of his shrewd decision, around 1470, to publish his designs through the new medium of engraving, Mantegna's erudite compositions, closely modeled on ancient sculptures and archaeological remains, strongly influenced other artists in northern Italy, especially sculptors working with bronze.

Sculptors sometimes copied Mantegna's compositions in their entirety, as seen in the plaquette by Andrea Briosco (Padua, 1470–1532) depicting the Old Testament heroine Judith who saved her people from destruction by decapitating their enemy, the Assyrian general Holofernes. In contrast, the artist Moderno (Verona, 1467–1528) consulted Mantegna's Entombment with Three Birds only for the background and the four female figures that appear in the foreground of the engraving and embrace Christ in the plaquette.

SEA GODS



A antegna's engravings, more than any other printed source, inspired translations into sculptural plaquettes and bronze statuettes. The theme of his *Battle of the Sea Gods*, inspired by Roman sarcophagus reliefs, may be an allegory of the destructive forces of human jealousy, as indicated by the emaciated woman at left holding a tablet inscribed *Invidia* (Latin for envy). The print provided the model for the bronze Neptune and sea monster shown here and for a plaquette, *Combat of Ichthyocentaurs*. In Greek mythology, ichthyocentaurs were half-human marine gods with the forelegs of a horse and tail of a fish.

THE TAROCCHI



The two delicate engravings Re (king) and Clio (muse of history) are from a set of fifty prints made in Ferrara around 1465 depicting muses, virtues, disciplines, planets, gods, and social classes. The technically and aesthetically refined series is rightly considered a masterpiece of early Italian printmaking. It is traditionally but misleadingly referred to as the "Tarocchi" out of confusion with tarot cards. The prints enjoyed wide diffusion and were immediately and repeatedly used as models for works in a range of different media, including maiolica. The dish possibly portraying Charles V and Petrarch is a rare early response to Re, made within a decade of its publication. The lustered bowl (coated with an iridescent metallic overglaze) based on Clio was instead created almost sixty years after the print first appeared.

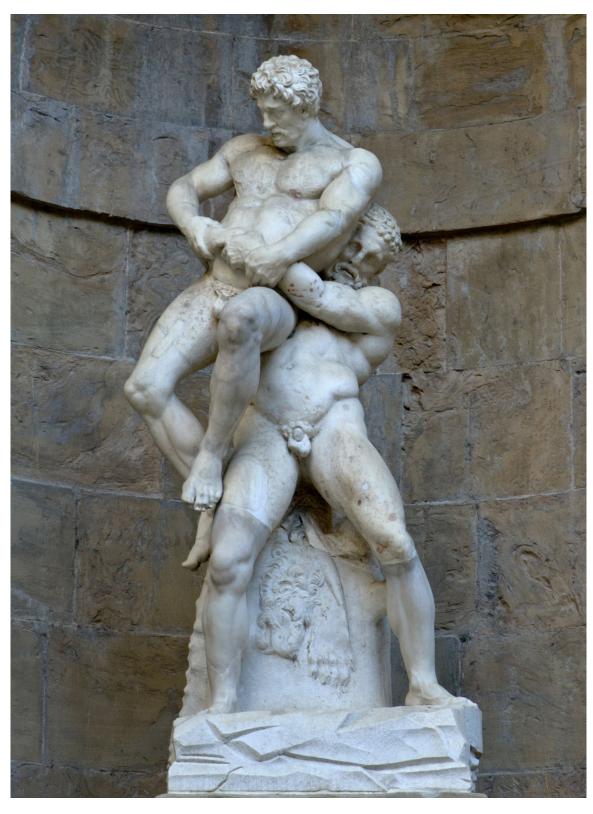
HERCULES AND ANTAEUS



During one of his twelve labors, the Greek hero Hercules was said to have vanquished the half-giant Antaeus. Being the son of Gaia (Earth), Antaeus remained invincible as long as he was in contact with the ground, so Hercules lifted him up and crushed him to death. The gruesome feat was a popular subject with Renaissance artists, who were fascinated by the dynamic struggle between two naked bodies, as famously displayed in a Roman statue now in Florence. Both Andrea Mantegna and the Florentine artist Antonio Pollaiuolo (c. 1431–1498) admired the ancient statue, and their versions of the subject, broadcast in print, were soon copied by bronzecasters and maiolica painters.



Antonio del Pollaiuolo, *Hercules and Antaeus*, bronze, c. 1470–1475, Museo Nazionale del Bargello, Florence



Hercules and Antaeus, marble, Roman, 1st-3rd century, Pitti Palace, Florence

The Laocoön



Laocoön was a priest of Apollo. He, along with his two sons, was killed by serpents for attempting to convince his fellow Trojans not to bring the Greeks' fateful wooden horse into their city walls. The tragic episode in the Trojan Wars was famously recounted in Virgil's Aeneid, written in the first century BC, and the marble group now in the Vatican is the only surviving ancient statue of the subject. Working in Rome, the engraver Marco Dente (1493–1527) made two prints of the Laocoön, one based on the recently discovered statue, the other derived from an illustration in a late antique manuscript of the Aeneid. Both versions circulated widely, were endlessly copied, and contributed to making the Laocoön one of the most influential images in European art. As with all images shared with the world, responses ranged from reverent imitations to parodies.



Agesander, Polydorus, and Athenodorus, Laocoön and His Sons, c. 27 BC-AD 68, marble, Cortile del Belvedere, Museo Pio Clementino, Vatican Museums.
Image: © Vanni Archive/Art Resource, NY



The Laocoön from the Vatican Virgil, c. AD 400, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. Vat. lat. 3225 by permission of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, with all rights reserved/© 2017 Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

SILENUS



In addition to monumental marble sculptures, sixteenth-century artists were captivated by reliefs carved on the many ancient sarcophagi visible in the churches, public places, and private palaces of Rome. Printmakers in the circle of the renowned High Renaissance painter Raphael (1483 – 1520) produced engravings based on these objects, such as Agostino Veneziano's scene of revelry depicting Silenus, the drunken companion of the god of wine, Bacchus. Copied onto ceramics, ancient compositions reached new audiences, permeating the daily lives of refined patrons. The famous maiolica plate by Nicola da Urbino was part of a service made for Isabella d'Este,



the learned marchioness of Mantua and one of the most sophisticated art collectors of her time.

Drunken Silenus on a Donkey, detail from a Roman sarcophagus depicting the Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne, marble, second half second century AD, British Museum, London. Image: © The Trustees of the British Museum

MICHELANGELO'S PRESENTATION DRAWINGS



A round 1533, Michelangelo made a number of drawings derived from Ovid's Metamorphoses, a narrative poem containing more than 250 myths that was first published around AD 8. The drawings were gifts for Tommaso de' Cavalieri, a young Roman nobleman with whom Michelangelo was deeply smitten. The daringly homoerotic depiction of Ganymede—a beautiful boy kidnapped by an enamored Jupiter in the guise of an eagle—reveals the influence of the Laocoön in the depiction of a struggling male body, while the dynamic Fall of Phaeton was probably based on a Roman sarcophagus. Meant as personal gifts, these highly finished drawings were soon copied, carved in crystal, cast in bronze, and published in print. Derivations such as these transformed the private compositions into very public images of Michelangelo's art.

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THE DREAM



Michelangelo's enigmatic drawing depicts a young man being roused by a trumpeting angel and surrounded by symbols of gluttony, sloth, lust, and other vices. The beautiful youth may personify the human mind or soul being awakened to a higher spiritual existence. The work may have been made for his friend Tommaso de' Cavalieri, who certainly owned it soon after it was made. Like other drawings Michelangelo made for him, *The Dream* was copied and published in print, allowing the private work to function as a model for maiolica painters. As the inscription on the back of the plate reveals, this faithful translation into maiolica erroneously interprets the obscure subject as the more familiar biblical story of the dream of Daniel. Separated from their initial context, Michelangelo's compositions could be reinterpreted at will by craftsmen who had never set eyes on the original drawings.

PAUL PREACHING IN ATHENS



A s told in the Bible (Acts 17:16-32), Paul visited Athens where he preached against the worship of false idols. The subject was one of

those depicted in a set of ten tapestries designed by Raphael in 1515 for the walls of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

The designs were engraved and published in Rome by Marcantonio Raimondi and Agostino Veneziano. Their prints functioned as the main source of knowledge



Raphael, Saint Paul Preaching at Athens, tapestry cartoon, 1515-1516, Victoria and Albert Museum, On loan from the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen. Image: © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

about the tapestries, and only those five compositions that appeared in print were copied onto maiolica.

While some craftsmen duplicated entire compositions on their plates, others placed the figures in new settings and used them to depict different subjects altogether. The painter of the maiolica plate depicting the ancient Roman hero Marcus Curtius pushed the two groups in *Paul Preaching in Athens* to the sides and inserted Marcus Curtius on horseback in the middle. He is shown about to plunge into a gaping chasm in the Roman forum that was caused by an earthquake. As efforts to fill the huge pit had failed, the priests announced that the gods demanded the sacrifice of a precious victim. Declaring that the courage of Roman soldiers was Rome's greatest treasure, Marcus Curtius leapt into the abyss.

Amphiaraus and Eriphyle



The prolific maiolica painter Francesco Xanto Avelli (1486/1487—after 1542) repeatedly treated the story from Ovid's Metamorphoses of Amphiaraus, a Greek king who was persuaded by his wife, Eriphyle, to take part in a battle in which he knew he would die. Xanto's plate demonstrates his inventive cut-and-paste approach to composing his paintings, altering his printed sources to fit his needs. The figures on this plate were adapted from three different prints. Dressed in a blue garment, Eriphyle derives from a male figure seen from behind at the upper right of The Massacre of the Innocents; the young boy in Isaac Blessing Jacob is reversed and changed into the aged Amphiaraus; and the three soldiers to the left are modeled on three nude goddesses in The Contest between the Muses and the Pierides, exhibited in the next gallery.

MERCURY AND PSYCHE

This vase is decorated on both sides with episodes from Apuleius's Golden Ass, an ancient Roman novel recounting the adventures of a certain Lucius. Obsessed with learning about magic, Lucius is transformed into a donkey and wanders at length, witnessing and hearing many incredible stories. One such tale is that of Cupid and Psyche, the subject of a famous cycle of frescoes designed by Raphael and published in prints by engravers in his workshop. For the scene on the front of this vase, the pottery painter copied Caraglio's engraving of the messenger god Mercury leading Psyche to Mount Olympus for her marriage to her beloved Cupid. For the scene on the back he combined figures from two other prints to illustrate a different episode from the novel. The nude man throwing a wine-skin is copied from The Massacre of the Innocents after Bandinelli, exhibited nearby.

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS



This superb large plate depicting the Gospel episode of the Massacre of the Innocents shows Francesco Xanto Avelli's inventiveness at its most successful. Xanto's main models for this istoriato work were the two most famous prints of the massacre at the time: one designed by Raphael, the other by Baccio Bandinelli. Seamlessly combining both figures and architectural elements from the two large engravings here exhibited, Xanto also added individual figures from at least three other engravings. The considerable size of the printed models must have also influenced the ambitious scale of the plate, which is one of Xanto's early masterpieces.

Minerva and Orpheus



Tot all maiolica painters engaged in creative elaborations of their models, instead often translating printed designs to ceramic surfaces with little or no modification. Such was the case with the plate depicting Minerva (goddess of wisdom and war) accepting the olive branch of peace from Cupid (god of love). An allegory of moderation, the design was based on a print by Marcantonio Raimondi, perhaps after a drawing by Raphael.

The so-called "In Castel Durante" painter only slightly modified Marcantonio's engraving of a seated nude man by substituting his flute with a *lira da braccio* (a precursor of the violin) and placing him in a landscape that includes a rabbit and lion. The original design was thus transformed into a depiction of Orpheus, a musician and poet of Greek myth, whose sweet music was said to have enchanted animals, trees, and even rocks.

THE PLAGUE



The so-called Morbetto ("little plague") belongs to a group of designs that Raphael conceived exclusively for publication in print. The macabre scene—filled with the dying bodies of humans and animals—depicts an episode from Virgil's Aeneid, in which Aeneas, leader of the plague-stricken Trojans, is warned in a dream to continue his fateful journey to Italy to fulfill his destiny and save his people. This plate, made in Urbino some twenty years after the publication of the print, is the only known derivation in maiolica, perhaps due to the engraving's disturbing imagery. Faithfully following his model, the maiolica painter also transcribed the Latin quotation that helped erudite viewers identify the subject of the composition. It reads in translation: "They relinquished sweet life and dragged their sick bodies" (The Aeneid, book III).

THE MARRIAGE OF THE VIRGIN



Some painters, such as Francesco Xanto Avelli and his assistants, excerpted individual figures from prints after Parmigianino to create entirely new compositions. A witness to the event in *The Marriage of the Virgin* becomes, in the ceramic plate, a terrified man raising his arms in horror at the tragic deaths of Hero and Leander. The two lovers had lived on opposite sides of the Hellespont (a narrow waterway)



in northwestern Turkey) and each night Leander would swim across it to visit Hero in her tower. One stormy night he drowned, causing Hero to leap from her tower in despair. Her awkward pose, unconvincing as a falling body, is clearly indebted to that of a kneeling woman in an engraving by the Monogrammist FA.

Monogrammist FA, Maenad or Cassandra, engraving, 1507, British Museum, London.
Image: © The Trustees of the British Museum

THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS



of the Shepherds served as a model for maiolica in various pottery towns, including Faenza, of which this exquisite plate — with its cool, restricted palette and greenish glaze — is a characteristic example. A bronzecaster as well as a printmaker, Caraglio took inspiration from Parmigianino's design when he produced his own version of the subject in an oval bronze plaquette.

Muses and Pierides



vid's Metamorphoses relate the story of the contest between the muses (the daughters of Zeus, king of the gods) and the nine daughters of Pierus (king of Macedonia). Having haughtily challenged the goddesses to a musical contest, the Pierides predictably lost, and were transformed into birds as punishment. The tale provided the subject for Rosso's engraving, which depicts the goddesses at left and the daughters of Pierus at right. Filled with graceful nude bodies in a pastoral setting, this print is one of the largest Rosso produced with Caraglio. Its design became an extremely popular model for maiolica painters, especially in Urbino.

GIULIO ROMANO AND BALDASSARE PERUZZI



Gircle, also designed extremely successful prints inspired by classical antiquity. Talented maiolica painters, such as Francesco Xanto Avelli, could employ the same print to create very different compositions. For his plate depicting Vulcan, Venus, and Cupid, Xanto borrowed only the figures of Apollo and a muse from the corners of Peruzzi's print, while the female figure alone was included, now placed on a wheeled platform, in a separate, and obscure, allegorical composition. The Battle Scene after Giulio Romano was also a popular model for maiolica, being more or less completely transposed onto ceramics—as in the striking dish by the Painter of the Coal Mine Service—or drastically edited, using only a few figures, as in the plate by the Painter of the Three Graces, painted shortly after the publication of the print.

Illustrated Bibles



A colors" by his father, Jacob. When Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery, they presented Jacob with the robe, stained in animal blood, to convince him that his son had died. These two plates depicting the tale were made in two different workshops but are based on the very same woodcut, found in a popular illustrated Bible. Responding to the challenges of the Protestant Reformation, cheap, abridged, and illustrated Bibles became extremely successful publications in Catholic lands in the mid-1500s. In France, the Lyon publisher Jean de Tournes specialized in producing these pocket-size books, which he published in several languages and marketed throughout Europe. Under their influence, the decoration of maiolica shifted from mythological to biblical and religious subjects in the later sixteenth century.

THE NEUDÖRFFER PLATE



This beautiful plate was part of an armorial service commissioned between 1552 and 1563 from an Italian workshop in Urbino by the German calligrapher, scholar, and mathematician Johann Neudörffer and his wife, Katharina Nathan. The decoration of the service is based on an etching by Hanns Lautensack depicting Neudörffer's arms, his Latin motto ("You have conquered Sparta, adorn her") in a cartouche, and his trademark, as well as his name and profession. The print, also clearly commissioned by the scholar, must have been sent from Nuremberg to Urbino along with



instructions, providing a German visual model for the Italian pottery painter. Many wealthy families in southern Germany were particularly avid collectors of Italian maiolica, often demanding that sets of wares be personalized with their coats of arms or favorite decorative motifs.

Hanns Lautensack, Housemark and arms of Johann Neudörffer and Katharina Nathan, 1552, etching, Kupferstichkabinett, Staatliche Museen, Berlin. Image: bpk Bildagentur/Kupferstichkabinett, Staatliche Museen, Berlin/Dietmar Katz/Art Resource, NY

BOOKS AND PLAQUETTES



everal bronze plaquettes produced in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries appear to be inspired by illustrations found in books. The titillating subject of a satyr uncovering a sleeping nymph, reminiscent of Greek mythology, was popularized by an illustration to the allegorical romance Hypnerotomachia Poliphili (The Dream of Poliphilus), the story of a man dreaming of his search for his beloved. Often considered the most beautiful book of the Renaissance, it is famed for the clarity of its typography and for its refined woodcut illustrations of the people and places Poliphilus encountered in his dreams. The motif of the nymph and satyr frequently appeared on plaquettes such as those exhibited here. Produced in multiple examples and easy to transport, plaquettes spread their influence beyond their centers of production. In very rare instances, they even served as models for prints: the large woodcut by the German court artist Lucas Cranach expanded the design of a late fifteenth-century plaquette by the Italian bronzecaster known only by his initials, Master Io. F. F.

Ovid and Montagna



Printmakers sometimes drew heavily from book illustrations when producing their own single-sheet prints, and few appear to have done so with more enthusiasm than the northern Italian engraver Benedetto Montagna. For his print depicting the musical contest between Apollo and Marsyas, which he prominently signed with his name, Montagna borrowed the two main figures from a woodcut he found in the first illustrated vernacular edition of Ovid's Metamorphoses, which recounts the tale and its gruesome conclusion. In punishment for his audacity in believing that he could be a better musician than the god Apollo, Marsyas was flayed alive.

SELEUCUS



Seleucus II was the ruler of the Seleucid empire, which emerged in the Middle East after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC. This plate illustrates the sinking of Seleucus's fleet, seen at the time as divine retribution for having his stepmother and her young child put to death. As inscribed on the back of the plate, the talented painter Xanto followed an Italian translation of Justinus's History of the World, written in the second century AD. The ceramicist borrowed figures from both German and Italian sources. The fleeing Seleucus, on the left, is copied from an allegorical print of the sun by the German Master IB, while the dynamic male nudes are based on a now-lost series of erotic prints engraved by Marcantonio Raimondi and known as I Modi (The Ways).

Dürer's Satyr Family



In the years around 1500, the German engraver Albrecht Dürer—who visited Italy in 1495 and again in 1505—produced a group of prints inspired by classical antiquity and contemporary Italian models. As his rapid preliminary drawing reveals, Dürer initially intended to depict a centaur family, the subject of an ancient painting described by the Greek writer Lucian. He later transformed it in his exquisite engraving to a satyr's family, a pastoral subject much in vogue in Venice at the time. Both figures also betray the influence of Andrea Mantegna's *Battle of the Sea Gods* (on view in room 1), a print Dürer had studied closely. Inspired by Italy, Dürer's print was in turn copied by Italian artists and printmakers, influencing bronze plaquettes, painted maiolica, and engravings produced in northern Italy.

Dürer's Prodigal Son



The biblical parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) tells of a youth who wasted his inheritance on wild living and became so destitute that he envied even the pigs their food. Realizing his foolishness, he repented and returned to his father, who forgave him. Painted by an unknown artist, this plate is a masterpiece of Italian maiolica decoration and an iconic example of the influence of Albrecht Dürer's art in Italy.

As the opposite orientation of the images suggests, the pottery painter did not own Dürer's original print, but a reversed copy of it, highlighting how Dürer's influence was often mediated by the many reproductions of his work that circulated during his lifetime. Despite being derived from a copy, the painter's aesthetic achievement is remarkable: the cool palette and meticulous painting are characteristic of the finest examples of early istoriato ware, with the metallic sheen of the luster adding to its vibrancy.

Basin with Geometric Patterns and Dragon

Deruta or Faenza, c. 1480/1500 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Plate with Clasped Hands

Faenza, late 15th or early 16th century maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Plate with Seraph

Faenza, early 16th century maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

Workshop of Andrea Mantegna

The Entombment with Three Birds

c. 1490/1500

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Moderno

The Entombment

late 15th-early 16th century
bronze
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Samuel H. Kress Collection

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Andrea Briosco, called Riccio Judith with the Head of Holofernes

early 16th century
bronze
National Gallery of Art, Washington,

Samuel H. Kress Collection

GIROLAMO MOCETTO AFTER ANDREA MANTEGNA

Judith with the Head of Holofernes

c. 1500/1505

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Print Purchase Fund (Rosenwald Collection)

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FOLLOWER OF ANDREA MANTEGNA

Judith with the Head of Holofernes

c. 1480

pen and ink with chalk and white heightening National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection

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ATTRIBUTED TO WORKSHOP OF ALESSANDRO LEOPARDI

Combat of Ichthyocentaurs

early 16th century

bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection

Severo da Ravenna

Neptune on a Sea Monster

c. 1500/1509

bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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Workshop of Andrea Mantegna

Battle of the Sea Gods (left half)

c. 1485/1488

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

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Workshop of Andrea Mantegna

Battle of the Sea Gods (right half)

c. 1485/1488

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of W.G. Russell Allen

Master of the E-Series Tarocchi

Re (King)

c. 1465

engraving with traces of gilding
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Rosenwald Collection

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MASTER OF THE E-SERIES TAROCCHI

Clio, Muse of History

c. 1465

engraving with traces of gilding
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

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Workshop of Maestro Giorgio Andreoli

Shallow Bowl with the Muse Clio

Gubbio, c. 1535/1540
maiolica
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Widener Collection

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Dish with Petrarch and Emperor Charles IV (?)

Deruta or Faenza, c. 1470/1480 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Cristofano Robetta after Antonio del Pollaiuolo

Hercules and Antaeus

c. 1500

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of the Arcana Foundation

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Dish with Hercules and Antaeus

Deruta, c. 1490 – 1500

maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Robert Lehman Collection, 1975, 1975.1.1033 14

Moderno

Hercules and Antaeus

late 15th-early 16th century
bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Samuel H. Kress Collection

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GIOVANNI ANTONIO DA BRESCIA AFTER ANDREA MANTEGNA

Hercules and Antaeus

c. 1490/1500 engraving National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Workshop of Maestro Giorgio Andreoli

Shallow Bowl with Hercules and Antaeus

Gubbio, 1520 maiolica National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

ATTRIBUTED TO MARCANTONIO RAIMONDI AFTER ANDREA MANTEGNA

Hercules and Antaeus

c. 1510-1520

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1949, 49.97.105

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Francesco Xanto Avelli, LUSTERED IN THE WORKSHOP OF MAESTRO GIORGIO ANDREOLI

Dish with Laocoön

Urbino and Gubbio, 1532 maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Robert Lehman Collection, 1975, 1975.1.1129

Made by two of the most important Renaissance ceramicists, this dish has an iridescent, metallic coating (luster) that was a specialty of Maestro Giorgio Andreoli.

Workshop or follower of Francesco Xanto Avelli, lustered in the workshop of Maestro Giorgio Andreoli

Shallow Bowl with the Death of Laocoön

Gubbio, 1539

maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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MARCO DENTE

Laocoön

c. 1515 - 1527

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1917, 17.50.16-99

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MARCO DENTE

The Laocoön

Rome, c. 1515 – 1527

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1949, 49.97.122

Moderno

The Flagellation

late 15th-early 16th century
bronze
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Samuel H. Kress Collection

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Attributed to Niccolò Boldrini after Titian

Caricature of the Laocoön Group

c. 1540/1545 woodcut

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

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Jean de Gourmont I

Laocoön

Lyon, first half 16th century
engraving
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

Nicola da Urbino

Plate with the March of Silenus

Urbino, 1524 maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Robert Lehman Collection, 1975, 1975.1.1020

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Agostino de' Musi, called Agostino Veneziano

The March of Silenus

c. 1520

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

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Workshop of Domenico da Venezia

Plate with the Triumph of Bacchus

Venice, c. 1560/1570

maiolica

NICOLAS BEATRIZET AFTER MICHELANGELO

The Rape of Ganymede

1542

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection,
The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1950, 50.567.25

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GIOVANNI BERNARDI

The Rape of Ganymede

1532 or after bronze allery of Art Wash

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection

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NICOLAS BEATRIZET AFTER MICHELANGELO

The Fall of Phaeton

1540 – 1566

engraving

Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum, Cambridge, Gift of William Gray from the collection of Francis Calley Gray

GIOVANNI BERNARDI

The Fall of Phaeton

1533 or after bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection

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Agnolo Bronzino or Giulio Clovio after Michelangelo

The Fall of Phaethon

1555/1559

chalk

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Woodner Collection

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Plate with the Dream of Daniel

Venice or Padua, 1545 maiolica

Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase

Unknown printmaker after Michelangelo

The Dream of Human Life

c. 1540

engraving

Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum, Cambridge, Gift of Miss Ellen Bullard

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26

Workshop of Guido Durantino, probably by Orazio Fontana

Plate with Paul Preaching in Athens

Urbino, c. 1535

maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Marcantonio Raimondi after Raphael

Paul Preaching in Athens

c. 1517 – 1520

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1917, 17.50.94

Andrea Briosco, called Riccio

Death of Marcus Curtius

early 16th century bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection

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27

Painter of the Milan Marsyas Charger with the Death of Marcus Curtius

Urbino, c. 1525/1530 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Francesco Xanto Avelli

Plate with Amphiaraus and Eriphyle (from the Hercules Service)

Urbino, 1532 maiolica

Agostino de' Musi, called Agostino Veneziano

Isaac Blessing Jacob

1524

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1917, 17.50.16-74

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Marcantonio Raimondi after Baccio Bandinelli

The Martyrdom of Saint Lawrence

c. 1525

engraving

Kirk Edward Long Collection

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Francesco Xanto Avelli Pilgrim Flask with Mercury and Psyche

Urbino, 1530

maiolica

The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 48.1373

GIAN JACOPO CARAGLIO AFTER RAPHAEL

Mercury and Psyche

c. 1520 – 1527 engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1917, 17.50.16-11

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Francesco Xanto Avelli

Charger with the Massacre of the Innocents

Urbino, c. 1527/1530 maiolica

NICOLAS BEATRIZET (?) AFTER MARCO DENTE, AFTER BACCIO BANDINELLI

The Massacre of the Innocents

1540s (?)

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund and Purchased as the Gift of Robert B. Loper

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MARCANTONIO RAIMONDI AFTER RAPHAEL

The Massacre of the Innocents

c. 1511

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Print Purchase Fund (Rosenwald Collection)

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Marcantonio Raimondi

The Reconciliation of Cupid and Minerva

c. 1515

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1949, 49.97.137

School of Marcantonio Raimondi After Baccio Bandinelli (?)

Seated Man Holding a Flute

c. 1510-1520

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Felix M. Warburg and his family, 1941, 41.1.206

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ATTRIBUTED TO THE PAINTER OF THE THREE GRACES, IN THE WORKSHOP OF MAESTRO GIORGIO ANDREOLI

Plate with the Reconciliation of Cupid and Minerva

Gubbio, 1525 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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THE "IN CASTEL DURANTE" PAINTER

Dish with Orpheus Charming the Beasts

Casteldurante (Urbania), c. 1520/1525 maiolica

MARCANTONIO RAIMONDI AFTER RAPHAEL

Il Morbetto (The Plague)

c. 1514

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of W.G. Russell Allen

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Plate with Il Morbetto (The Plague)

Urbino (?), c. 1535/1540

maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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42

Dish with the Adoration of the Shepherds

Faenza, c. 1530 – 1540

maiolica

The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 48.1487

GIAN JACOPO CARAGLIO The Adoration of the Shepherds

c. 1526

bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Eugene L. and Marie Louise Garbáty Fund

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GIAN JACOPO CARAGLIO AFTER PARMIGIANINO

The Adoration of the Shepherds

c. 1526

engraving

Kirk Edward Long Collection

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GIAN JACOPO CARAGLIO AFTER PARMIGIANINO

The Marriage of the Virgin

c. 1526

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCESCO XANTO AVELLI, PROBABLY LUSTERED IN THE WORKSHOP OF MAESTRO GIORGIO ANDREOLI

Plate with Hero and Leander

Probably Urbino (and Gubbio?), 1538 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

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GIAN JACOPO CARAGLIO AFTER ROSSO FIORENTINO

The Contest between the Muses and the Pierides

c. 1520–1539 engraving Kirk Edward Long Collection

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44

Probably workshop of Orazio Fontana

Plate with the Contest between the Muses and the Pierides

Urbino, c. 1540–1550 maiolica

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, Gift of John Gellatly

Francesco Xanto Avelli

Plate with Vulcan, Venus, and Cupid

Urbino, c. 1525 – 1528

maiolica

The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 48.1492

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Francesco Xanto Avelli

Plate with an Allegorical Scene with a Woman and a Putto

Urbino, c. 1527/1530 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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MASTER OF THE DIE AFTER BALDASSARE PERUZZI

Envy Driven from the Temple of the Muses

c. 1532

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

PAINTER OF THE COAL MINE SERVICE

Dish with Battle Scene

Urbino, c. 1540–1545 maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,
The Friedsam Collection, Bequest of Michael Friedsam,
1931, 32.100.369

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Marco Dente

Battle Scene

c. 1520

engraving

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1917, 17.50.16-98

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ATTRIBUTED TO THE PAINTER OF THE THREE GRACES, IN THE WORKSHOP OF MAESTRO GIORGIO ANDREOLI

Flat Plate with Battle Scene

Urbino, 1525

maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Widener Collection

Molded Dish with Joseph's Robe Presented to Jacob

Urbino, or Lyon (?), c. 1575/1600 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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51

BERNARD SALOMON

active 16th century

Joseph's Robe Presented to Jacob, from Quadrins historiques de la Bible

Lyon, 1553

woodcut

National Gallery of Art Library, Washington

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Probably by Gironimo Tomasi

Plate with Joseph's Robe Presented to Jacob

Urbino or Lyon, c. 1560–1575 maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Mrs. Francis P. Garvan, 1974, 1974.286

Plate with Heraldic Design after Hanns Lautensack

Urbino, c. 1552/1563 maiolica

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (William A. Clark Collection)

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Lucas Cranach the Elder

The Death of Marcus Curtius

c. 1506 – 1507

woodcut

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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MASTER IO. F. F.

The Death of Marcus Curtius

second half 15th century bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection 54

A Satyr Uncovering a Nymph, from Hypnerotomachia Poliphili

Venice, 1499
woodcut
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Florian Carr Fund

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Andrea Briosco, called Riccio

A Satyr Uncovering a Nymph

early 16th century
bronze
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
Samuel H. Kress Collection

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Apollo and Marsyas, from P. Ouidii Nasonis Metamorphosin (Ovid's Metamorphoses)

Parma, 1505 woodcut National Gallery of Art Library, Washington

Benedetto Montagna

Apollo and Marsyas

c. 1515/1520

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Master IB

Sol (The Sun)

1528

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Francesco Xanto Avelli

Plate with the Sinking of the Fleet of Seleucus (from the Pucci Service)

Urbino, 1532

maiolica

Albrecht Dürer

The Centaur Family

1505

pen and ink
National Gallery of Art, Washington,
The Armand Hammer Collection

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Albrecht Dürer

Satyr Family

1505

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Pseudo Antonio da Brescia Abundance and a Satyr (obverse)

1505 or after

bronze

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection 49

Benedetto Montagna

Satyr Family

c. 1512/1520

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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Workshop of Maestro Giorgio Andreoli

Dish with the Prodigal Son

Gubbio, 1525 maiolica

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Robert Lehman Collection, 1975, 1975.1.1105

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Albrecht Dürer

The Prodigal Son

c. 1496

engraving

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection