

GIOVANNI BATTISTA FOGGINI

(FLORENCE, 1652 – FLORENCE, 1725)

FIRST SCULPTOR IN TITLE AT THE COURT OF THE LAST MEDICI

FIRST ARCHITECT AND DIRECTOR OF THE GRAND-DUCAL WORKSHOPS

WHITE MARBLE LIDDED VASE



ITALY, FLORENCE

DIMENSIONS : H. 25 ^{15/16} IN L. 22 ^{7/16}

DIRECT PROVENANCE : COLLECTION OF GIOVANNI PRATESI, FLORENCE

THIS VASE IS REPRODUCED IN THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE BOOK
« GIOVACCHINO FORTINI. SCULTURA ARCHITETTURA DECORAZIONE E COMMITTENZA A
FIRENZE AL TEMPO DEGLI ULTIMI MEDICI »
BY SANDRO BELLESI AND MARA VISONÀ, 2008, P. 329.

THE ATTRIBUTION TO GIOVANNI BATTISTA FOGGINI WAS CONFIRMED BY KIRA D'ALBURQUERQUE

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The great delicacy of the sculpture as well as the abundance of the ornamental vocabulary of our vase is absolutely faithful to the stylistic repertoire of its author - Giovanni Battista Foggini.

Indeed, many drawings of vases that we know of this Italian artist are similar to our piece.

Like most of his creations, our vase has a flared shape, sculpted at the bottom of the body with gadroons partially covered with four large acanthus leaves.

On the rim of the neck and on both sides, the vase is supported by volute shaped handles.

Underneath them, in the counter-curve of the body a large triangular foliated cartouche is inscribed in which is carved a female face whose extreme finesse is typical of the work of Foggini.

On the top, a scalloped cover is garnished with a grenade. The vase stands on a square base.



The **Metropolitan Museum** in New York preserves multiple drawings by Foggini with vase projects similar to our vase (here below).



Giovanni Battista Foggini

Design for a Lidded Gadrooned Vase with Satyr Heads Holding Garlands

Pen and brown ink over traces of black chalk

23,2 x 11,5 cm (9 1/8 x 4 1/2 in)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, 1952



Giovanni Battista Foggini

Female Mask Surrounded by Tendrils

Pen and brow ink, over preliminary drawing in black chalk

15,9 x 25,4 cm (6 1/4 x 10 in)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, 1952



Giovanni Battista Foggini

Two drawings for vases

Pen and brown ink, brush and brown and gray wash, over traces of black chalk. Traces of a vertical black chalk line through the center of the design.

23,2 x 11,5 cm (8 1/16 x 5 11/16 in)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, 1952

Giovanni Battista Foggini

(Florence, 1652 – Florence, 1725)

Giovanni Battista Foggini is a sculptor, *bronzier* and draftsman active in Florence at the time of the last two Grand Dukes of the **Medici dynasty**, **Cosme III** (1670-1723) and **Jean-Gaston** (1723-1737).

Inspired by the opening of the **Académie de France** in 1666, **Cosimo III de Medici** founds in 1673 an **Academy in Rome** gathering the best artistic hopes of Florence in order to bring a renewal to the Florentine art. Thus, Giovanni Battista leaves for the **Accademia Fiorentina** to attend classes of the two most influential Baroque artists in Rome. **Cosimo III de Medici** personally chooses - **Cirro Ferri**, artistic heir of **Pietro da Cortona**, for the teaching of drawing and painting and **Hercole Ferrata** for sculpture.

Giovanni Battista Foggini returns to Florence in 1677 and, at first, he settles in the **Loggia Rucellai** transforming it into his workshop. He soon becomes known as an architect and draftsman for other crafts, designing some stucco designs for **Palazzo Pitti** and **Palazzo Medici Riccardi**, as well as providing designs for major goldsmiths.

After **Fernando Tacca's** death in 1687 (architect of the court of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany), Foggini was appointed as **grand-ducal sculptor** and within the decade also became the **court architect and director of the Grand-Ducal Workshops**. Thanks to him, the Florentine workshops have recovered their level of excellence, that has been lost since the departure of **Jean de Bologna**. The Medici family ordered him furniture, mosaics, bronzes and goldsmithery.

His major works in Florence include the sculptures (The Mass of Saint Adréa, Saint Andrea de Corsini and the Battle of Anghiari, the Apotheosis of Saint Andrea de Corsini) of the **Chapel Corsini** of the **Church of Santa Maria del Carmine** or its sculptural reliefs at the **Palazzo Viviani della Robbia**. He is also the author of the bust of **Galilee** for his tomb at the **Basilica Santa Croce**.

Outside Italy, the most prestigious collections such as the **Palais de Versailles**, the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in New York, the **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London, the **JP Getty Museum** in Los Angeles, or the **Louvre Museum** in Paris preserve works by Giovanni Battista Foggini.