Plaquette - David Triumphant over Goliath

Object: Plaquette
Place of origin: Italy (made)
Date: 1500-1520 (made)
Artist/Maker: Moderno (makers)
Materials and Techniques: Bronze
Museum number: 896-1855

Gallery location: Sculpture, Room 111, The Gilbert Bayes Gallery, case DR17

Public access description
Plaquettes are small plaques made of bronze, brass, lead or precious metals. They originated in the 1440s with the desire to reproduce coins and hardstone engravings from ancient Greece and Rome. Some were made as collector’s pieces, to be viewed and displayed in private, and others for practical purposes. They also inspired designs in other media, from architecture to bookbindings.

Moderno was one of the most prolific and successful Renaissance artists to work with plaquettes. The composition of this example represents Virtue defeating Tyranny. It is a rare design and few versions are known.

Descriptive line
Plaquette, bronze, by Moderno, Italy, 1500-20

Physical description
David with the head of Goliath; in the background a nude figure is measuring the fallen giant.

Dimensions
Diameter: 10.48 cm

Museum number
896-1855

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O111894/david-triumphant-over-goliath-plaquette-moderno/