Medal

Place of origin: Italy (made)

Date: late 15th century - early 16th century (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Bronze

Museum number: 712-1865

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

This is a bronze medal made in the late 15th or early 16th century in Italy. This medal has only the obverse which shows an unknown monk. There are the letters 'R. L.' in the field.

It was bought from the Soulages collection. Jules Soulages (1812-1856) was a collector of French and Italian Renaissance art. After his death his collection was acquired by the Museum. Born in Toulouse in 1803, Jules Soulages practised as a lawyer in Paris and was founding member of the Société Archeologique du Midi de la France. He created an extensive collection of French and Italian Renaissance decorative art from 1825, comprising around 750 objects, including furniture, glass, ceramics, bronzes, enamels and ivories. In the late 1840s Soulages moved back to Toulouse, where Henry Cole viewed his collection in 1855. Subsequent sale negotiations led to the production of a catalogue and two exhibitions in England at the Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough House, and at the Manchester Art Treasures exhibition respectively, both enhancing the celebrity of the collection, and resulting in its acquisition for the South Kensington Museum. Soulages died on 13 October 1857, aged 54.

Descriptive line

Medal, bronze, a monk unknown, Italian, late 15th or early 16th century

Physical description

This medal has an obverse only and depicts a bust portrait of a monk unknown. In the field the letters 'R. L.'.

Dimensions

Diameter: 6.35 cm

Museum number

712-1865

Object history note

There is an electrotype copy of this medal (inv. no. 1857-88). It was bought from the Soulages collection in 1865. The dealer John Webb was despatched to examine and report on the collection, which was purchased between 1859 and 1865 in installments for £11,000 with the assistance of 73 subscribers.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O154113/medal-unknown/