Medal - Ippolita Gonzaga

Object: Medal
Place of origin: Italy (made)
Date: 1552 (made)
Artist/Maker: da Trezzo, Jacopo (medallist)
Materials and Techniques: Bronze
Museum number: A.270-1910
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
This medal depicts Ippolita Gonzaga (1535-1563), who became the wife of Antonio Caraffa in 1554. It is made by the medallist Jacopo da Trezzo (ca. 1515-1589). The obverse is a rather crude copy of Leone Leoni’s portrait of 1551 and is kind of impudently signed by Trezzo. Ippolita Gonzaga (1535-1563) was a member of the Gonzaga family of Mantua in the middle of the 16th century. Ippolita was already famed for her beauty and accomplishment by her 16th year. She was the daughter of Ferrante Gonzaga and Isabella of Capua. Poets praised her and she was equally portrayed endlessly. She suffered a premature death.

Descriptive line
Medal, bronze, Ippolita Gonzaga, by Jacopo da Trezzo, Italy, 1552

Physical description
Medal depicts on the obverse the bust to the left of Ippolita in classical dress. Her hair is bound with jewels, and she wears two necklaces. Inscription. On the reverse is Aurora in her chariot, drawn by a winged horse (Pegasus), flying towards the right. She holds a torch in her left hand, and with her right scatters flowers. Below, a landscape with a river and two towns. Inscription.

Dimensions
Diameter: 6.85 cm

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Object history note
From the Salting bequest.

Historical significance: The obverse is a rather crude copy of Leone Leoni’s portrait of 1551 and is kind of impudently signed by Trezzo.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O313192/ippolita-gonzaga-medal-da-trezzo-jacopo/