

MARIO TRAINA

MONETE, MEDAGLIE E REBUS PER VIRGILIO A MANTOVA
Rilettura critica e aggiornata degli studi di Alessandro Magnaguti

Abstract

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the house of Gonzaga turned the Lombard town of Mantua into one of the great capitals of Europe. Their military, political and cultural achievements were celebrated in many a series of coins and medals, whose outstanding quality is reminiscent of the work of the great artists of Renaissance Mantua, most notably Andrea Mantegna. In these emissions, the image of Latin poet Vergil, a universal symbol of Mantua's greatness, excellence and independence, is the most recurrent iconography.

This paper sketches out a history of Vergil's image in Mantuan coins since the early emissions of the mid-thirteenth century to the years of the decline of the house of Gonzaga. Through this study, it is possible to observe the evolution of minting and incising techniques in the duchy of Mantua, as well as that of the representation of power in one of the most influential states in Renaissance Italy.