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Display and collection of medals in Renaissance Italy

by N.DURKEE

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Abstract: The present work investigates the commemorative portrait medal, a new artistic and cultural phenomenon of the Italian Renaissance. The medals have been viewed as the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century equivalents of the ancient Greek and Roman coins as an essential tool of antiquarian scholarship in this period. This paper examines in other words the ways in which medals were employed, and explores their altered meanings when they were displayed, in combination with symbols of their owners' vaunted scholarly activities.

Key words: modern art, medals, loops, Renaissance history.