

Spinelli, Andrea

Parma 1508 – 1572 Venice

**Foundation medal for the monastic church of San Francesco della Vigna,
Venice**

Venice circa 1534



BRONZE, very fine early striking. 39.5 mm diameter. 38.01 grams. Pierced at 12:00.

Obverse Bust to left, a portrait of Andrea Gritti (1458–1538, doge of Venice from 1523), bearded, wearing a gown and a doge's cap and robe. Around, ANDREAS. GRITTI. DVX. VENETIAR. ET. C. (Andrea Gritti, doge of Venice). Beaded border

Reverse Perspective view of the façade and right side of the church of S. Francesco della Vigna. Around, DIVI. FRANCISCI. MDXXXIII [leaf] ([Church] of S. Francesco, 1534); in exergue, AN. SP. F. (Andreas Spinelli fecit). Inner and outer beaded borders

PROVENANCE Piero Voltolina (1930–2005) — Arsantiqva, 'The Serenissima collection: history of Venice through medals. Part I (XV–XVI)', London, 19 April 2002, lot 97

LITERATURE Piero Voltolina, 'Medaglie relative alle chiese di Venezia e delle altre isole della Laguna (parte 1)' in *Medaglia* 22 (1987), pp.41–44 no. 2 (this piece reproduced as fig. 31); P. Voltolina, *La storia di Venezia attraverso le medaglie* (Venice 1998), I, no. 287; Giuseppe Toderi and Fiorenza Vannel, *Le medaglie italiane del XVI secolo* (Florence 2000), p.235 no. 628 and Tav. 149 (this piece reproduced)



A rare variant of the preceding medal, with undated obverse (instead of ANDREAS. GRITTI. DVX. VENETIAR. MDXXIII.). It is uncertain whether this or the preceding medal served as the foundation medal.¹

Both struck and cast examples are known:

Ø 39.5 mm

¹ Cf. Voltolina 1987 (*op. cit.*), p.43; Attwood (*op. cit.*), p.164, the latter arguing for the precedence of the other medal.

• Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum² • London, British Museum (cast, 38 mm, 37.03 grams) • London, Victoria & Albert Museum (struck, 38 mm, 37.42 grams)³ • Venice, Museo Correr, Cl. XXXIX, 149 (struck, 39 mm)⁴

REFERENCES Alfred Armand, *Les médailleurs italiens des quinzième et seizième siècles* (Paris 1883–1887), I, p.155 no. 5; Giovanni Gorini, 'Le Medaglie veneziane' in *Monete e medaglie a Venezia*, edited by Giovanni Gorini (Venice 1977), p.57 no. 354

² Obverse reproduced by Lionello Puppi, 'Iconografia di Andrea Gritti' in "*Renovatio urbis*". *Venezia nell'età di Andrea Gritti*, edited by Manfredo Tafuri (Rome 1984), pp.216–235 fig. 14.

³ The two examples in London are described by Philip Attwood, *Italian Medals c.1530–1600 in British public collections* (London 2003), p.164 no. 207.

⁴ Vincenzo Lazari, *Notizia delle opere d'arte e d'antichità della Raccolta Correr di Venezia* (Venice 1859), p.200 no. 2; *Catalogo delle monete, medaglie, tessere, bolle e placchette esposte nel Museo Civico Correr* (Venice 1898), p.32 no. 150; Franco Panvini Rosati, *Medaglie e Placchette italiane dal Rinascimento al XVIII secolo*, (Hamburg 1966), p.47 no. 167; Cristina Crisafulli and Leonardo Mezzaroba, 'La scuola medaglistica veneziana nel Rinascimento attraverso le collezioni del Museo Correr' in *Bollettino dei Musei Civici Veneziani*, third series, 4 (2009), pp.11, 54 (reproduced p.52).