

LUIGI MONTANARI

(active in Modena in mid-19th century)

Maquette for an unexecuted monument to General Raimondo Montecuccoli

Wax on a wood and plaster base: H. 60 cm.

Inscribed on pedestal:

front: Basso = rilievo I^o

Battaglia di S. Gottardo

(Montecuccoli Generale in capo)

left: Basso=rilievo II^o

assalto del Nuovo Brandeburgo

(Montecuccoli Soldato)

right: Basso=rilievo III^o / Montecuccoli che scrive le sue memorie /
sull'arte della guerra e che istituisce / a Vienna la società
dei curiosi della Natura / (Montecuccoli scienziato)

back: Basso=rilievo IV^o

Montecuccoli che accorra difende/re la Patria minacciata
dalle armi / Pontificie

(Montecuccoli cittadino)

On 9th April 1861, the sculptor Luigi Montanari published a proposal in the Gazzetta di Modena for the construction of a monument to celebrate the long and illustrious military career of a native of Modena, General Raimondo Montecuccoli (1609-1680), the saviour of the Austrians from the Turks in the Battle of St. Gotthard of 1664, and at the same time he said he would submit a maquette to the Società dei monumenti ai Modenesi illustri in the hope the monument would be accepted and he would be asked to execute it. In his description Montanari says the monument would be set on a large rectangular base, on which a higher pedestal would be placed, surmounted by a statue of Montecuccoli represented at the point in the Battle of St. Gotthard when he turned the tables on the Turks and led an assault on them. The hero would be depicted leading the charge, pointing forward with his sword and spurring on his horse.

The base of the maquette is occupied by inscriptions giving Montanari's ideas for reliefs, corresponding exactly to his descriptions of these in the Gazzetta di Modena. The one on the front would be closely related to the statue itself, showing Montecuccoli as a general in the Battle of St. Gotthard, at the moment of the

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Christian army's advance against the Turks, and above, a corona trionfale, such as the Romans gave the victor in a great battle.

The relief on the left would show Montecuccoli as a citizen, defending Modena from the Papal armies, and above this the corona civica, the Roman reward for those who saved their fatherland. The one on the right would represent Montecuccoli as a soldier, mounting the walls of Neu Brandenburg, and above this would be a corona murale, the crown Romans awarded the first man to leap onto the walls of a besieged city. The fourth relief would portray Montecuccoli as a learned man writing his memoirs on the art of war, and above, the corona d'ellera, the Roman reward to the learned.

This minute description of the proposed monument coincides almost perfectly with the wax maquette. Originally, Montanari suggested the medium of marble, but in a letter to the Commune of February 1864, he says that having done further work, he would prefer to cast the statue in bronze. The monument, however, was never executed. The Commune rejected it, because of the "notorie non troppo felici economiche circostanze nelle quali versa il comune . . ." However, a meeting of Commune officials was called on 13th January, 1865, with the object of settling Montanari's application for payment for the maquette, and it was agreed the maquette should be accepted, and payment in silver of 200 Italian lira made to the sculptor.