

EMILIO SANTARELLI

(Florence 1801-1886)

Son of the Abruzzan gem-carver, medallist, wax-modeller, and sculptor, Giovanni Antonio Santarelli (1758-1826), Emilio was taught by his father and at the Academy in Florence, and then, after winning the Academy's Rome scholarship, by Thorvaldsen in Rome. One of his first works was to complete his father's bust of F.X. Fabre (Musée Fabre, Montpellier), and it was he who, with Luigi Giovannozzi, executed the tomb of Fabre's mistress, the Countess of Albany († 1824), to the design of Charles Percier in S. Croce (1828). His most celebrated image was the Prayer of Innocence, which he executed for Prince Demidoff and again for the King of Sardinia. His other works include the statue of Michelangelo (1842) in the loggia of the Uffizi, a series of busts of naturalists in the Museo di Storia Naturale in Florence, and the tomb of the painter Francesco Sabatelli († 1830) in S. Croce. He was appointed professor at the Florentine Academy in 1832, and member of the Academy of Genoa (where he carved the figure of Endurance on Bartolini's monument to Columbus in 1845-49) in 1849. He had a section of his own at the Esposizione Italiana of 1860, but thereafter occupied himself increasingly with his official duties for the Academy, Michelangelo's quatercentenary, and elsewhere.

Bust of Canon Ambrogio Ambrosoli

Marble

H. 78.5 cm

Insr. behind: AL CANONICO AMBROGIO AMBROSOLI PERCHE
NEL MDCCCXLVII IN FIRENZE DAL PERGAMO
RICORDANDO LA PATRIA CONTRIBUIVA AL
RISORGIMENTO D'ITALIA EMILIO SANTARELLI
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This striking bust with its remarkable virtuoso carving of the canon's goffered cotta, recalls a bust of similar virtuosity by a Florentine sculptor of the Baroque era, Orazio Mochi's Canon Pompilio Zuccarini, which was removed from the Pantheon to the Palazzo Barberini in 1968.

Ambrogio Ambrosoli was a priest and author in Pistoia, whose collected Discorsi sacri e morali were published in 1852. It has not been possible to establish whether he was related to the author and university teacher Francesco Ambrosoli (1797-1868), whose early career was also spent working towards the Risorgimento.

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It is probable that chief amongst the utterances of Ambrosoli from the pulpit in favour of the Risorgimento in 1847, alluded to by the inscription, was the oration delivered in S. Felicità in Florence on 23rd March, which was published as Il Cittadino e la Patria in Rome in the same year.

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