



Beheading of Saint Paul

Part of a predella

Artist	Luca di Tomme active in Siena 1356-1389
Origin date	second half of the 14th century
Origin place	Siena
Type	painting
Material	wood
Technique	tempera
Sizes	magasság: 32 cm szélesség: 39,5 cm
Inventory No.	55.156



Description

Outside the walls of Rome, before the city gate, the sentence is being carried out. The setting is identified by the pyramid, the tomb of the praetor Caius Cestius (12 BC), near the Gate of Saint Paul. In the foreground appears the body of the saint, fallen backwards from a kneeling position, his hands bound behind him and his head severed; blood pours from his neck. On the ground are three large bloodstains and hollows, formed at the beheading of Saint Paul, from which springs burst forth. According to legend, the head of the Apostle Paul cried out the name of Jesus three times; his final words can be read beside the hollows: Gesù ("Jesus"). On the right, the executioner in a yellow tunic is placing his sword back into its scabbard. Around him, Roman soldiers with shields and spears hold back the crowd approaching from the left.

(Prokopp Mária, 1993)

Provenance

Arnold Ipolyi's purchase from the Ramboux estate in Cologne, 1867

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