

FRANCESCO FRANZIA, School of
Bolognese school, ca.1450 - 1517/18.

His name was Francesco di Marco di Giacomo Raibolini. The name Francia may be simply a variant of Francesco, or may derive from the name of the goldsmith, to whom he is said to have been apprenticed. He came from Bologna ; Vasari gives his date of birth of 1450 (with some reservation in his first edition). He matriculated in the goldsmiths' guild at Bologna in 1482, is first mentioned as a painter in 1486, and his earliest dated work is of 1490. His painting shows the influence of the Ferrarese school of Lorenzo Costa. He had a number of pupils and followers. He died either in 1517 or in 1518. Practically nothing remains of his work as a jeweller, but there are a few rare prints of his and some medals and coins are ascribed to him.

Madonna and Child

oil on panel, 25 x 18 ins.

Condition

Above average state. A strip added at the top. Small losses --one on the Child's shoulder.⁽¹⁾

Provenance

Acquired by Dr Clowes in 19 .

There are good grounds for attributing this work to Francesco's son Giacomo. (before 1486 --1557). Very similar compositions by him are in the collection of Lady ~~Exeter~~^{Cyfar}, Burghley House (inv.no.417) and the Johnson Collection, Philadelphia (no.250 ; 1966 cat., p.30)⁽²⁾

Notes.

1. From a report of 1954 by ~~Dr~~ S. Keck of the Brooklyn Museum
(Clowes archives)

2. Information from E. Fahy (1966). Cf. also the following works
recorded in photos at the Witt Lib. : Madonna and Child with
Sts Francis and Catherine, labelled there "Glasgow, Ilay M.
Campbell loan" and "G. Francia ?" ; and Madonna and Child with
St John labelled there "Mrs A.S. Walker, U.S.A. Attrib. to
G. Francia".