

Tommason Boscoli

[called *Maso del Bosco*]

Florentine painter

(1503-1574)

He was born in 1501 or 1503 in Fiesole da Pietro, son of Maso d'Antonio da Settignano. Vasari says "created" by Andrea Ferrucci from Fiesole, who requested his collaboration with that of S. Cosini for the funeral monument of Antonio Strozzi (died in 1524) in S. Maria Novella.

At Boscoli it seems to belong, contrary to Vasari's assertion that he assigns them both, only the entire angel figure to the left; while the right one is attributable to the Cosini style. His formation is to be found, however, in the circle of stonecutters and carvers of Fiesole and Settignano, who worked in Florence, Rome and elsewhere in great numbers throughout the sec. XVI. And soon Boscoli had to emerge and become a parent company.

Boscoli seems to be identifiable in that Mastro Tommaso and Mastro Maso scarpellino from Settignano, often appearing in payments for ornamental works in the book of accounts of the construction of the temple of S. Biagio in Montepulciano, by Antonio da Sangallo il Vecchio. The work started in 1518 and continued uninterruptedly until 1528, ending only several decades later. It is tradition, without sufficient documentation, that Sangallo, as he only "visited the factory twice a year", entrusted the execution to a Tommaso Boscoli born in Settignano, who was in Montepulciano when the construction had already begun and that, "with great glory in his work, he was assigned to this city, and bought houses and possessions started at his home in this city". The coincidence, therefore, in 1563, we find a sculptor "Tomaso Boscoli da Montepulciano" in the Pio IV account book at Belvedere, paid for paid work.

The 11th Aug. 1532 "Tomaso of piero boseselo in Rome" writes to Michelangelo that he has finished his services with the pope and asks him to use him in Rome or elsewhere. For the Michelangelo Project of the Julius II tomb, completed by 1545 following the 21st Aug. 1542, performs by Michelangelo's design the lying figure of the pontiff in S. Pietro in Vincoli, a work of little value and devoid of characteristic features. In 1544 the marble group *S. Anna, the Madonna and Child, and the commissioner Pietro de Velasco* for S. Giacomo in Agone, now in S. Maria di Monserrato, Rome. This work, drawn from the analogous group of Andrea Sansovino in St. Augustine in Rome, also referring to that of Francesco da Sangallo in Orsanmichele in Florence, and in some details referring to Michelangelo's modules, shows compositional uncertainty and an archaic taste. On March 8, 1552, Boscoli intervened, for the part of the Chigi, for a praise with the heirs of Lorenzetto, represented by Raffaello da Montelupo, for the Chigi tombs in S. Maria del Popolo. The book of accounts of the St. Peter factory records, on behalf of "Tomaso dal Boscho", some contracts and payments from 1547 to 1556 for a series of capitals within the basilica. From 1561 to 1563, as already mentioned, appears in the book of bank accounts of Pope Pius IV at the Belvedere for stucco payments executed in a first floor room.

Lastly, it is located that Boscoli in Florence in September 1565, called to execute three terracotta statues, now dispersed (*External Religion, Grace, Holy Action*), in the apparatus that V. Borghini conceived for the wedding of Francesco I de 'Medici with Joan of Austria. During the Siena War (1552-55) - at the service of Cosimo de 'Medici - he would oversee the restoration of the fortress of Montepulciano.

It is commonly accepted as the date of his death on 15 or 16 Sept. 1574 in Florence. But it must be remembered that if Giovanni Boscoli is the son of Thomas, as too many coincidences seem to confirm, he must be credited with his 15th letter. 1579 from Montepulciano to Duke Ottavio Farnese: Giovanni had moved away from Parma in 1578 where he worked as an architect and sculptor for the news of his father's severe illness and justified his continued stay in Montepulciano with his father's death and questions of patrimonial succession.

by Giancarlo Bojani - Italian Biography Dictionary - Volume 13 (1971)

Translated from:

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