

# FANCELLI, Alessandro (aka *Scherano*)

by Sandro Bellesi - Italian Biography Dictionary - Volume 44 (1994)

FANCELLI, Alessandro (Sandro), called Scherano (or Scarano). - Son of Giovanni di Sandro called Scherano, was born in Settignano (Florence) around the first decade of the nineteenth century. XVI. The information about the life and activity of this sculptor, sometimes confused with other members of his family, is desirable and fragmentary. In 1535 he became a member of the Compagnia di S. Luca in Florence (Cavallucci, 1873) and in 1537 he was in Rome; for the funeral monument of Pope Julius II in St. Peter in Vincoli sculpted the statue of the Madonna "with Michelagnolo's model" (Vasari, 1568, p. 208), then completed around 1545 by Raffaello da Montelupo and his collaborators. During the Roman stay he was also involved in the rebuilding of an ancient marble with a Lion for Medici villa, currently unidentified (Thieme-Becker).

Returning to Florence, he performed in 1542 some statues for the scenic apparatus, set up by F. Salviati, for the entrance to the city of Pier Luigi Farnese, who became Duke of Castro (Vasari, 1568, 15; Giess, 1978) and subsequently (1546-49) collaborated with his cousin Giovanni Fancelli, called Nanni di Stocco, in the decorative furnishings of the Galluzzo charter; he performed fifteen bas-relief stories (now lost), destined for a marble anchor for the main altar of church (Leoncini, 1979). Architectural commissions followed for the same conventual complex, relating to the eaves of the ecclesiastical building and the converse chorus (1557).

In 1565, when he organized the wedding celebratory apparatus of Francesco I de' Medici and Giovanna d'Austria, F. collaborated with Giambologna (J. Boulogne) and F. Moschini with the sculptural decoration of Arch of Prudence (Ginori Conti, 1936): this is the last news that concerns him. For this ephemeral monument, erected in via de' Gondi in Florence, F. made the statues of the Guard and Patience, which were placed on the frontespieces and which went missing after the dismantling of the arc.

The statue of Apollo, already documented in the Del Black collection and now dispersed, is often referred to as F.'s work, while being conducted by Giovanni Fancelli called Nanni di Stocco (Bocchi-Cinelli, 1677).

The date of his death is unknown.

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