

# Wilhelm Hopfgarten

Wilhelm Hopfgarten (born April 7, 1789 in Berlin, † October 24, 1860 in Rome ) was a German bronze founder.

After the early death of his father, a silk worker, he was brought up with his uncle, the bronze caster Heimlinger. With him he received training in brass and chasing. At the same time, he attended the drawing school for craftsmen at the Berlin Academy of Arts as a student of Ferdinand Collmann. Around 1804 he traveled to Paris and then to Rome. In 1805 he and his colleague Benjamin Ludwig Jollage (1781-1837) founded a foundry and chased workshop. From 1808 it was located in Via due Macelli. Her downsized casts of ancient works were highly valued in their accuracy and quality as a souvenir of the Grand Tour. Sculptors working in Rome, such as Bertel Thorvaldsen and Antonio Canova, had their designs watered by them. His workshop also restored antique bronzes.

His older brother in Berlin Heinrich Hopfgarten was also a bronze founder. His son Emil Alexander Hopfgarten trained Wilhelm in his Roman workshop.

Since 1819, along with Barthold Georg Niebuhr and Christian Karl Josias von Bunsen, he promoted the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran community of Rome as the third member of the newly founded presbytery. He is buried in the Protestant cemetery in Rome.

## Selected Works

1820 statue of Sir Thomas Maitland by Thorvaldsen, Corfu

1820 The bronze doors of Saint Paul are re- cast in front of the walls in Rome  
Work on the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica and the church Il Gesù

1823 Capitoline Cupid ( Cupido ), cast, Luiseninsel in the park of Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin

1825 centerpiece based on Thorvaldsen's statues for Christian VIII , Amalienborg Palace

1828 copy of the Praying Boy of Boidas , since 1846 in Sanssouci , Potsdam

1832 Baptismal font of the Christuskirche in Rome, designed by Johann Michael Knapp

1835 Cast of the Miguel de Cervantes statue by Antonio Solá , Plaza de las Cortes, Madrid

1844–1848 bronze vessels based on ancient models for the Pompejanum in Aschaffenburg

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