

Reliquary Housing True Veil
Relic of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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ID: 185-RSCR-12

Relic: *from the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Origin: Siena, Italy

Age: ca. 1829

Cedula Label: *[Ex] Velum B.[eata] M.[aria] V.[irgo]* (from the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Size of the Reliquary: 35 cm in height

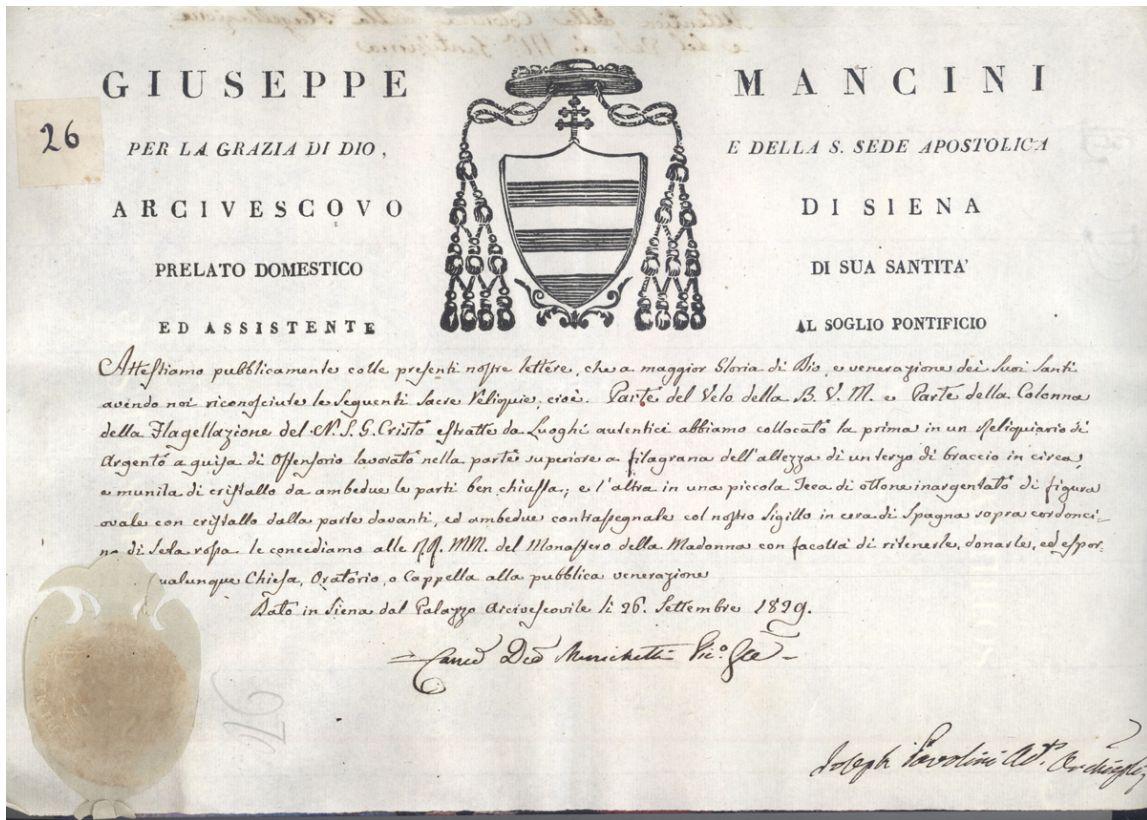
Authentics: double-authenticated by the Archbishop of Siena

Description:

Spectacular 18th century Baroque silver reliquary monstrance surmounted by a cross, decorated with silver filigree wire ornamentation and housing behind front and back plated of thick rock crystal significant *ex velo* (from the veil) relic of **the Blessed Virgin Mary**. The relic is affixed to a silk background decorated with floral ornamentation and identified on a manuscript *cedula* as *[Ex] Velum B.M.V. (From the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary)*. On the back, over another plate of rock crystal, the relic is secured with perfectly preserved seal of red Spanish wax bearing an imprint of a coat of arms of Fr. Giuseppe Mancini (†1855), Archbishop of Siena (1824-1855). It is accompanied by the original matching authentic document issued and hand signed by Fr. Mancini in 1829. In the text, it mentions another reliquary housing a Passion relic of the Column of the Flagellation that, unfortunately, did not survive to the present day.

According to tradition, the **Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary** was worn by the Virgin as she stood at the foot of the Cross. It had been transferred in the early years of the Christianity from Jerusalem to Constantinople when it was presented by the Byzantine Empress Irene to the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. In 876 his descendant Charles the Bald gave the relic to the cathedral at Chartres. The Veil is kept in a golden reliquary beside the high altar and has formed the focus of many traditions throughout the centuries. It was believed to have protected the faithful down through the centuries from many dangers and evils, including famine and war, outbreaks of the plague, and the worst ravishes of the French Revolution. The veil itself is more than six meters long and made of silk. Scientific studies have shown that it is of Syrian design, of fine quality and can be traced to the first century. Every year on 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, the Veil is processed through the town of Chartres.

All items offered in our Store are guaranteed for life to be genuine antique articles



(Translated from Italian)

GIUSEPPE MANCINI
By the grace of God and the Holy Apostolic See
Archbishop of Siena

Domestic Prelate of His Holiness
And Assistant to the Pontifical Throne

We publicly testify with these letters at hand, that, having recognized [as genuine] for the greater glory of God and the veneration of His Saints the following relics, namely:

Part of the **Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and part of the **Column of Flagellation of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, taken from authentic locations. We have placed the first [i.e. the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary] in a silver reliquary in the form of a monstrance, [measuring] about a *braccio* [archaic Italian measure of length equaling approximately 37 cm] decorated on its upper part with filigree, fitted with a crystal glass on both sides [and] closed tightly.

[We placed] the other in a small silver-plated brass case, oval in shape, with glass on the front.

And secured both with our seal in Spanish wax over a pink [color] silk thread.

We grant them to Mother Superior of the Monastery of the Madonna, along with the permission to keep them, give them away, and transport them to any church, oratory, or chapel for public veneration.

Given in Siena at the Archiepiscopal Palace on 26 September [of year] 1829.



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GIUSEPPE
PER LA GRAZIA DI DIO,
ARCIVESCOVO
PRELATO DOMESTICO
ED ASSISTENTE

NCINI
S. SEDE APOSTOLICA
DI SIENA
DI SUA SANTITA'
AL SOGLIO PONTIFICO

*Attestiamo pubblicamente colle presenti nostre lettere, che il maggior Sacerdote di Dio, e venerabilissimo dei suoi Santi
avendo noi ricongiunte le seguenti Sacre Reliquie, cioè: un pezzo del Velo della S. S. M. e. Beata della Calvaria,
della Flagellazione del S. S. S. Cristo spuntato da Lugghi, e altri, abbiamo collato la prima in un ostensorio di
Argento a guisa di Offensorio lavorato nella parte superiore in figura dell'altezza di un terzo di braccio in circa,
e munita di cristallo da ambedue le parti ben chiasso, e in una piccola. Icona di stoffa d'argento di figura
ovale con cristallo dalla parte davanti, ed ambedue con rubini, e nel mezzo scritto in caratteri d'argento sopra roscioni
no di S. S. S. M. del Monastero di S. Madonnas con facciata di stoffa di seta, ed altre
qualunque Chiesa, Oratorio, o Cappella alla pubblica venerazione.*

Dato in Siena dal Palazzo Arcivescovile il 8. Settembre 1879.

Giuseppe Arcivescovo di Siena

Giuseppe Arcivescovo di Siena



“ ... silver reliquary in the form of a monstrance, ... decorated on its upper part with filigree ... ”



[Ex] Velum B.[eata] M.[aria] V.[irgo] (from the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary)



"... secured ... with our seal in Spanish wax over a pink [color] silk thread."



“... fitted with a crystal glass on both sides [and] closed tightly.”