

Fan - Erminia takes refuge (episode from Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered)

Textile and Costume Collection

Accession Nr.: 69.1380.1 

Date of production: ca. 1720

Place of production: Italy

Materials: ivory; metal; mother- of-pearl; parchment leaf; tortoiseshell

Techniques: inlaid; painted

Dimensions: height: 28,5 cm
width: 51 cm

The leaf shows a riverside scene set in rolling countryside, probably an episode from Torquato Tasso's epic poem *Gerusalemme liberata* (VII, 6—7): the fleeing Erminia asking a peasant for refuge. The charming, rosy face of the armour-clad rider arriving among the resting peasants and the rider's posture in preparing to dismount from the horse suggests a girl in man's clothing. The characteristic brownish-green coloration of the painting, executed using the *sfumato* technique, is brightened up by a red item of clothing on each of the figures. On the verso is a coloured bouquet of roses on an uncoloured ground. The sticks are embellished with stylised motifs in three rows the guard-sticks are embellished with similar inlaid, ornamentation. The picture on which the depiction was presumably based is as yet unknown.

Literature

- Maros Donka Szilvia: *Bájos semmiségek. Az Iparművészeti Múzeum legyezőgyűjteménye (1700-1920)*. Balassi Kiadó - Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 2002. - Nr. 3

