Ex-libris (bookplate) - Dr. Ludwig Ferdinand herceg

Archive / Ex Libris Collection

Accession Nr.:	MLT 1686.1.112
Artist/Maker:	Volkert, Hans (1878 - 1945) / graphic designer
Date of production:	after 1903
Place of production:	Munich
Inscription:	balra fent: HANS VOLKERT; jobbra lent kézírással: Herr C. V H. de Rozsnyay freundlichst gezeichnet vom Radierer
Materials:	paper
Techniques:	etching
Dimensions:	height: 24 cm width: 16,5 cm

The ex libris designed for Duke Ludwig Ferdinand - a member of the Bavarian ruling dynasty - is framed by a framework of rose and thistle wreath, with laurel leaves at the top. Inside the frame, there is a skeleton, representing Death, in a glass ball. Over the ball, there are dancing putti, below, an open book with glasses. This complex, symbolic composition refers partly to the medical studies of the duke and also to the symbols of life and death, beginning and end. Its significance lies in the signature of its owner, the ordered, ducal coat-of-arms. Escutcheons had been one of the most important characteristics of ex libris right from the start up to the ninteenth century. At the turn of the century, however, they started to be a mere element of composition or motifs of decoration.

Literature

- Szerk.: Szilágyi András, Horányi Éva: *Szecesszió. A 20. század hajnala. (Az európai iparművészet korszakai.)*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1996. - Nr. 7.45. (téves ltsz.mal) (Horváth Hilda)



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