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A FINE SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE FLAGELLATION OF CHRIST

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BRONZE, WOOD, SILVER

ITALY

EARLY 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 37CM HIGH, 38CM WIDE, 23.5CM DEEP - 14½ INS HIGH, 15 INS WIDE, 9¾ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

AFTER THE FLAGELLATION, A COHORT OF SOLDIERS GATHERED AROUND CHRIST IN PILATE'S HEADQUARTERS, STRIPPED HIM, PUT A PURPLE ROBE AROUND HIS SHOULDERS, A TWISTED CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD AND A REED IN IMITATION OF A SCEPTRE IN HIS HAND. THEY KNELT BEFORE HIM AND CRIED, 'HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS' THEN LED HIM AWAY TO BE CRUCIFIED. CARVED WITH A SCENE FROM CHRIST'S PASSION, THE PANEL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A FOCUS FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION AND MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SET TEXT SUCH AS THE 'VIA CRUCIS' OR STATIONS OF THE CROSS, A DEVOTION WHICH COMPRISES FOURTEEN IMAGES FROM THE PASSION BEFORE WHICH PRAYERS AND PASSAGES OF THE GOSPELS ARE RECITED DURING HOLY WEEK.

THE CROWN OF THORNS IS A PARODY OF THE CROWN OF ROSES THAT THE ROMAN EMPEROR WORE AT FESTIVALS, AND IS PORTRAYED AS A CIRCULAR WOVEN RING. THE SOLDIERS BEING RECORDED AS HAVING TWISTED THORNS INTO A

CROWN. TOGETHER WITH THE CROSS, NAILS AND WHIP, IT IS A POTENT SYMBOL OF GOOD FRIDAY.

PROVENANCE

CARLO GAETANO STAMPA (1667 - 1742), CARDINAL AND ARCHBISHOP OF MILAN

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