

Bassorilievi di Villa Giustiniani – Roma



LIBERO PATRI
 SANCTO SACR
 SEX · CAELIVS
 PRIMITIVVS ET
 PUBLICIA · ANTVLLA
 VOTO SVSCEPTO
 D. D.

Within the Palace are a great many fine Statues; an antique Copy of one of *Niobe's* Daughters.

A *Venus* coming out of the Bath. The Duke of *Richmond*, I think, has a Copy of this in *Seagliola*.

Marfyas tied up to a Tree to be flead: exceeding good.

An *Apollo*, leaning against the Stump of a Tree, with his right Arm brought over his Head; as beautiful a Figure as can be seen, and were well worthy to accompany the *Venus de Medicis*.

I forbear adding several others I observ'd there.

In one part of the Garden, within a shady Grove of *Licini* [*Ilex*] is a Mount where they say was once a Temple of the Sun.

On the outer Gates of this Palace, which are cover'd with Metal, they shew the Marks of two or three Cannon-Balls which that Heroine *Christina* Queen of *Sweden* shot off from the Castle of *S. Angelo* for Diversion, about a Mile over the Houses.

In the Villa *Giustiniani**, by *S. John Lateran*, are abundance of Bulls, several fine Statues, Basso-Relievo's and Inscriptions.

One I observ'd, which was made to a most highly esteem'd Wife.

CONIVGI SANCTISSIMÆ, CASTISSIMÆ,
 INCOMPARABILI FOEMINARVM.

Another to a Wife who had liv'd with her Husband forty eight Years. Another to a Son, the Loss of whom is much lamented;

FILIO OPTIMO, PISSIMO, DVLCISSIMO, SODALI
 DESIDERATISSIMO, VIXIT ANNIS XVI MENSIBVS V
 DIEBVS XXI. PARENTES INFELICISSIMI.

U u 2

Another

Villa Giusti-
 niani.

* There is
 another Villa
 belonging to
 this Prince,
 just without
 the Porta del
 Popolo, but
 all the finest
 things have
 been removed
 from thence.

ROME. VILLA GIUSTINIANA.

Another to a Daughter, wherein the odd Hours of her Life are express'd.

FILIAE PIENTISSIMÆ QUÆ VIXIT ANNIS XIX
MENSIBUS X DIEBUS XXIX HOR. VIII.

One finds in these, and many other sepulchral Inscriptions, the Ablative Case us'd in expressing the Continuance of time instead of the Accusative.

Among the Busts, I observ'd one called there *C. Marius*, but *Ficaroni* told me it is of *L. Sulla*.

Among the Statues, there is one of *M. Antony*, and another of *Justinian* the Emperor.

I have already occasionally mention'd a most curious Vase that is in this Villa, when I spoke of an antique Altar at the *Palazzo Bracciano*, which is of the same Design.

There are four other smaller antique Vases with Basso-Relievo's on one side only of each; they stand at the four Corners of a little Square, formed by Espaliers. They represent

Hercules in the Garden of the *Hesperides*.

A *Triton* carrying off a *Nymph*.

A *Faun* picking a Thorn out of a *Satyr's* Foot.

The fourth seems to be *Venus* and *Adonis*.

I have here given Designs of them.

There are several other Vases in this Garden, with Basso-Relievo's round them, which are not set up.

On one of these is a Basket full of *Priapus's*.

The Palace of this Villa is but small, and they therefore call it the *Palazzino* or *Palazzetto*, that is, the Little Palace; there is in it an antique Basso-Relievo, which is valued not so much for the Workmanship, for that is indifferent enough, but for the Subject: It is a *Votum* to *Aglibolus* and *Malachbelus*, Deities of the *Palmyreans*, by which are understood the Sun and Moon; for the Moon was sometimes worship'd as a masculine Deity, [*Lunus*.] There is under it an Inscription in the *Palmyrean* Language, and another in *Greek*. I let the former alone, (not understanding the Character) and transcrib'd the later, together with an Interpretation of it by *Mr. Spon*, which they shew there with it; which are here annex'd.