

**Walter Cupperi**

**On Some Italian Busts of Charles V of Habsburg**

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The historical significance of busts and medals portraying Charles V from life often transcended the quality of their craft and design. The iconography and the success of these portraits can be fully understood only if their cultural impact is reframed within a broader network of diplomatic relations and a specific “ritual of portraiture” which concerns the invention, the commission, and the circulation of a ruler’s bust and its replicas.

My paper (soon to be published) considers two marble busts of Emperor Charles V of Habsburg (1500-1558) – the first ever made in Italy as far as we know. Both of these portraits can be traced back to the Flemish collection of Charles.