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**The six centuries of Este  
numismatic cabinet: the  
Medagliere Estense**

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## **The six centuries of Este numismatic cabinet: the Medagliere Estense**

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The Este collection of coins and medals from the XV century to our time: a history of loss and increases, but also of different choices made for the conservation and valorization of a lot of precious ancient objects.

The interest in coins and medals at the Este court dates to the XV century, when Ferrara, at that time the chief town of the Este duchy, became one of the main centres of humanistic culture, thanks especially to the marquis Leonello who was personally interested in collecting ancient coins and engraving gems, which were the ancient nucleus of the Este collections. His successors continued collecting coins and medals, forming precious collections.

After the escheat of Ferrara to the Pope in 1598, all the Este collections fortuitously recovered were transferred from Ferrara to the Ducal Palace in Modena, the new duchy's chief town. Only at the end of the last century were the collections transferred to the Galleria and Museo Estense, in the Palazzo dei Musei, its present seat.

Not only are the vicissitudes of loss or increase due to acquisitions part of the history of the collections, but also the different choices made for the conservation and valuation of the ancient objects. In those choices contingent necessities and personal interests of the dukes interlace with the culture and taste of the various epochs.

We are doing some interdisciplinary research not only with regard to formal and typological elements, but also with regard to technologies and conservative problems, specially for the bronze. Therefore this research is also concerned with the programming of correct maintenance and restoration operations.