Basic Detail Report

Saint’s Vestment

Date
1680-1720

Primary Maker
Artist not recorded

Medium
silk velvet, linen, gold thread and sequins

Description
A vest with raised and highly ornamental gold applique /embroidery, although the red silk velvet shows signs of significant wear and deterioration. The saint’s vestment is more curious and further research is needed. The Sandronis were told the garment was for a child, but it clearly does not reflect any traditional or fashionable styles for children. Instead, the cut and decorative features (e.g., Ottoman-influenced gold embroidered red velvet; gold thread braided buttons) follow conventions for dressing Catholic Church saints. The antique dealer presented it as German. Although the origins are currently unclear, the piece is finely made and well-preserved. We have few garments of such age, so from the perspective of construction, it is very instructive.

Dimensions
10 5/8 × 7 7/8 × 3 1/8 in. (27 × 20 × 8 cm)