

## *Saint Ambrose or Augustine (retable excerpt)*

Author:	Anonymous
Place:	Siena
Period:	1301-1400
Material:	Tempera on panel (poplar?)
Measurements:	h. 33,5 cm x b. 10,9 cm x d. 2,5 cm (excluding frame) h. 45,5 cm x b. 19,8 cm x d. 3,7 cm (including frame)
Origin:	Purchased by art historian Jules Helbig (1821-1906) at the request of Savina de Gourcy Serainchamps (spouse of Charles van Caloen)
Description:	The panel shows a bearded bishop full-length and in three-quarters to the right, possible the saint and church father Ambrose or Augustine. He wears a black able or order robe over which is a pale red choir cap with gold aurifrices. On the head is a white mitre with similar ornamental border. In his left hand he holds a closed book, while his raised right hand holds a feather. The holy bishop stands on a floor similar to rippling water. The background is gilded. The richly elaborate halo behind the man's head is also gilded and embossed. The gilded frame has an ornamental border of four-passes containing a rosette. The corners and center of the stiles are decorated with a figure on a pedestal and holding an attribute. On the back of the panel, on the lower left is a lacquer seal in red wax. On the back of the frame is an inscription in pencil: 'S Augustin peintre de Sienne / Helbig'.

Exhibition:

Bibliography:



