

## Trying to locate Image - Valier Tomb, Venice

Anuradha Chatterjee

Dear List Members,

I am looking for an image of the "Dogaressa" in the Valier Tomb d. 1656 in San Giovanni e Paolo Venice. This is a Baroque sculpture that was discussed by John Ruskin. This sculpture is also discussed in Tombs Of The Doges - Venice (Originally Published 1900s) available online at URL:

<http://www.oldandsold.com/articles07/venice-34.shtml>. Ruskin scholar Paul Sawyer has also discussed this image in Paul Sawyer, Ruskin's Poetic Argument: The Design of the Major Works, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1985, p. 121. This sculpture is discussed in John Ruskin's Stones of Venice vol 3 (Complete Works 11, p. 113). The passage where this tomb is discussed is as follows:

From before this rude and solemn sepulchre let us pass to the southern aisle of the church of St. John and Paul; and there, towering from the pavement to the vaulting of the church, behold a mass of marble, sixty or seventy feet in height, of mingled yellow and white, the yellow carved into the form of an enormous curtain, with ropes, fringes, and tassels, sustained by cherubs; in front of which, in the now usual stage attitudes, advance the statues of the Doge Bertuccio Valier, his son the Doge Silvester Valier, and his son's wife, Elisabeth.<sup>1</sup> The statues of the Doges, though mean and Polonius-like, are partly redeemed by the Ducal robes; but that of the Dogaressa is a consummation of grossness, vanity, and ugliness, the figure of a large and wrinkled woman, with elaborate curls in stiff projection round her face, covered from her shoulders to her feet with ruffs, furs, lace, jewels, and embroidery...

Can someone provide some clues.

Thanks in advance.

Best,

Anu

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Reference:

Q: Trying to locate Image - Valier Tomb, Venice. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 5, 2005 (accessed Mar 15, 2026),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/27707>>.