

# ART MASTERPIECES IN AMERICA

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## THE ROSPIGLIOSI COUPE— BENVENUTO CELLINI.

One of the greatest treasures in the Metropolitan Museum is a cup called the Rospigliosi Coupe, in the Altman Collection. This cup, a salt cellar of gold and enamel, brings home strikingly the almost unbelievable value commanded these days by antiques. True, it is a large salt cellar, perhaps six inches wide by eight inches long, but even so, it seems incredible that Benjamin Altman paid \$250,000 for it, as much as the French nation paid Bartholdi for the wonderful Statue of Liberty.

Why was that price paid for it? Because the man who fashioned it was Benvenuto Cellini. This may not mean much to the layman, but to the collector the name is a magic one, spelling perfection in the goldsmith's art.

Benvenuto Cellini, goldsmith, jeweller, sculptor, pampered by Popes and Princes, ranks as the equal of Raphael, Titian, da Vinci, among the great Italian artists of the Renaissance, and the Rospigliosi Cup is a masterpiece worthy of him. The cup, a beautiful ornamented shell of gold, rests on a dragon, and has a turtle for a pedestal. Upon the shell is a sphinx upon which Cellini has lavished the utmost resources of his art and has produced a masterpiece. In the Rospigliosi Cup America certainly possesses one of the finest works by the old master.