

NOTE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE LAOCOON.¹

ACCOUNTS vary greatly as to the restorer of the arm. Vasari states that Bandinelli, when making his copy of the group (finished in 1525) now in the Galleria, Florence, "also restored the antique Laocoon in the right arm, the which being broken off and never found, Baccio made one in *wax*, the full size, that corresponded with the muscles, and with the boldness and character of the original, and united with it in such a manner as to prove how well Baccio understood his profession; and this model served him for making the perfect arm of his own work" (Vita di Baccio Bandinelli). But Winckelmann (H. A. x. 1, § 13), has the following account of the restoration:—"The right arm of Laocoon, which was wanting and replaced by one of *terra-cotta*, M. Angelo formerly thought of restoring, and commenced cutting it out of marble in the roughest way possible, but never finished it: this piece therefore now lies under the statue. This arm, entwined with the serpents, would have bent itself on high over the head of the statue. *Bernini* has, on the contrary, stretched out the arm restored by him in *terra-cotta*, in order to leave the head of the figure free, and that no other portion might approach the same in an upward direction."

It must, however, be observed here that, had M. Angelo attempted the restoration, it could not possibly have escaped the knowledge, and the chronicling, of his devoted admirer, Vasari.

Winckelmann must certainly be confounding the great *Michele* with his obscure friend *Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli*, who is actually mentioned by Vasari (Vita di G. Ang. Montorsoli) as having "restored the left arm, that was wanting, of the Apollo, and the *right of the Laocoon*," for Clement VII.

But, whether well-grounded or not, the tradition proves his idea of the proper action of the arm to have been equally wide of the original as what we see at present, whether that be due to Bandinelli or to Bernini.

CORRECTION.

In the Memoir on a seal of the Prior of Tywardreth, set with an intaglio of the Laocoon group, p. 49, line 7, *ante*, for *neck*, read *head*.

¹ See p. 48, *ante*.