

FOLCHI COAT OF ARMS

Final Modern Rendering and Historical Heraldic Foundation



DESIGN INSPIRATION

Inspired by the historical arms associated with Roberto Folchi, Bishop of Fiesole (1481-1510). The modern work preserves the historical heraldic structure and color pattern while presenting the arms as a newly rendered contemporary family emblem.

HISTORICAL ELEMENTS PRESERVED

The design retains the gold upper field, black eagle-or-griffin motif, horizontal red band, checkered lower field, and the characteristic historic-inspired shield form. The modern lower field uses blue and silver/gray checks and the final color version adds a gold FOLCHI scroll.

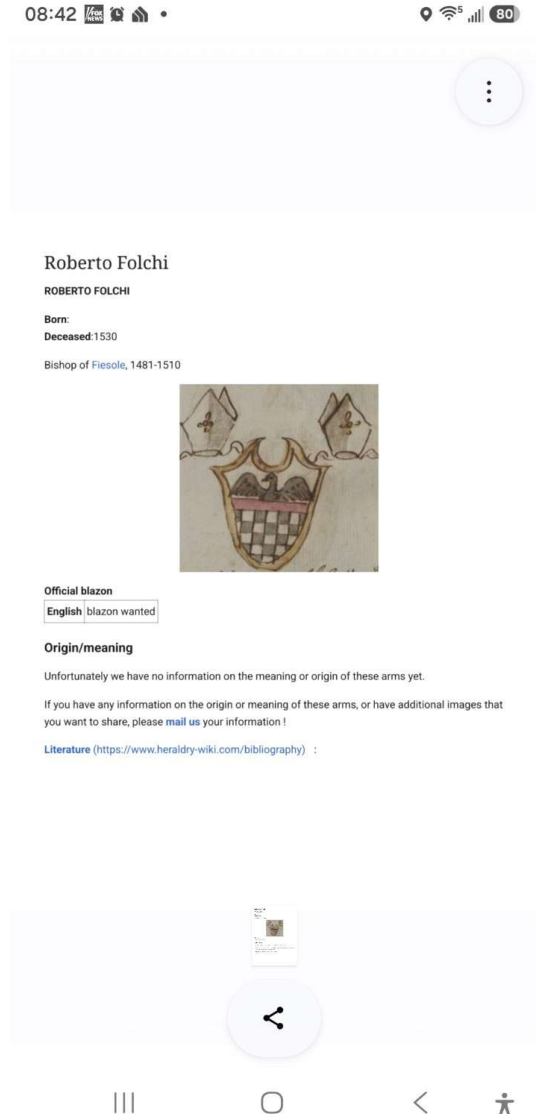
COLOR SYMBOLISM

- Gold (Or): nobility, generosity and wisdom.
- Black (Sable): strength, authority and constancy.
- Red (Gules): courage, sacrifice and leadership.
- Blue (Azure): loyalty, truth and justice.
- Silver/Gray (Argent): peace, purity and integrity.

Heritage | Strength | Legacy

THE HISTORICAL FOLCHI ARMS

Roberto Folchi - Bishop of Fiesole



Left: enlarged historical drawn Folchi arms. Right: preserved historical heraldry reference identifying Roberto Folchi as Bishop of Fiesole, 1481-1510.

DOCUMENTED HISTORICAL BLAZON

The University of Virginia (UVA) Sepoltuario database records the Folchi family arms: “Troncato: nel 1° d'oro, all'aquila (o grifone) nascente di nero; nel 2° scaccato di nero e d'argento; con la fascia diminuita di rosso passata sulla troncatura.”

English Translation: divided horizontally; above, gold with a rising black eagle or griffin; below, a black-and-silver checkerboard; with a narrow red band across the division. This is the historical structure underlying the modern rendering.

THE FOLCHI CHAPEL

The UVA Sepoltuario identifies the Cappella de Folchi in the left aisle of the Duomo di Fiesole. Roberto (Ruberto) Folchi is documented as commissioner/founder during his episcopate, circa 1481-1510. The record specifically lists heraldic arms among the chapel's decorative elements.

Catholic-Hierarchy independently records Roberto Folchi as appointed Bishop of Fiesole on 27 June 1481, resigning in 1510 and remaining Bishop Emeritus until his death in 1530. Guglielmo de' Folchi succeeded him and served until 17 April 1530.

THE FOLCHI PRESENCE IN THE DUOMO DI FIESOLE

Chapel, Tomb, Arms and Surviving Patronage

THE FOLCHI TOMB

A separate Sepoltuario record documents the Folchi tomb in the Duomo's left aisle as extant. It is described as a wall tomb with coffin, relief sculpture and heraldic arms. Bishop Guglielmo Folchi is documented as commissioner, circa 1504-1529.

A historical description of the cathedral states that the two superimposed tombs contained Bishops Guglielmo and Roberto Folchi. A surviving monument to Guglielmo Folchi, attributed to Francesco del Tadda and later recomposed, is also catalogued photographically in the Duomo interior.

SURVIVING FOLCHI COMMISSIONS AND ARMS

The Museo Bandini guide records a fine marble tabernacle in the cathedral bearing the arms of Bishop Guglielmo Folchi. The cathedral also preserves Giovanni della Robbia's 1521 Saint Romulus work, whose inscription names Guglielmo Folchi and whose surviving imagery visibly includes Folchi heraldry.

Additional photographic records in Wikimedia Commons' House of Folchi collection document works connected to both bishops, including a Ghirlandaio-workshop Madonna with donor Roberto Folchi (c. 1490-1510), a 1520 Buglioni-workshop altarpiece associated with Bishop Guglielmo de' Folchi, and the 1521 Saint Romulus/Folchi arms.

GENEALOGICAL SCOPE

These records establish a historical Folchi family with documented heraldry, two Folchi bishops, a Folchi chapel and tomb, and surviving ecclesiastical patronage at Fiesole. They do not by themselves prove a direct genealogical descent between that Fiesole branch and later Folchi families. A direct descent requires a continuous genealogical record.

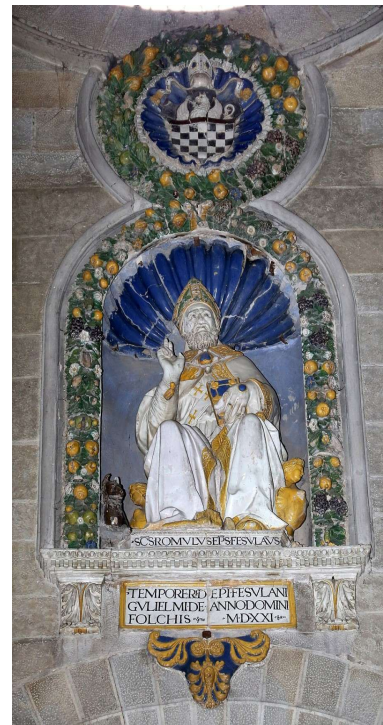
PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE FROM THE DUOMO DI FIESOLE



FOLCHI EPISCOPAL ARMS – TABERNACLE

Tabernacle in the Duomo di Fiesole bearing the Folchi episcopal arms. The shield is visible at the base of the architectural frame.

This surviving object is important because it provides physical evidence of the Folchi heraldic device in the cathedral associated with the Folchi bishops.



GIOVANNI DELLA ROBBIA - SAN ROMOLO, 1521

San Romolo, 1521. The Folchi arms appear above the saint, and the inscription below names Guglielmo Folchi and the year MDXXI (1521).



THE FOLCHI TOMB / MONUMENT

Surviving Folchi tomb/monument associated with Bishop Guglielmo Folchi in the Duomo di Fiesole.

BISHOP GUGLIELMO DE' FOLCHI ALTARPIECE — 1520

*Workshop of the Buglioni, Altarpiece of Bishop Guglielmo de' Folchi, 1520.
Glazed terracotta, commissioned during Guglielmo de' Folchi's episcopate as Bishop of Fiesole.
Preserved in the Old Chapel of the Diocesan Seminary of Fiesole.
Photograph: Sailko, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0.*

The University of Virginia Sepoltuario records the Folchi tomb in the cathedral's left aisle as extant, with a coffin, relief sculpture, heraldic arms, bird, geometric, lion, animal and plant motifs. Guglielmo Folchi is documented as its commissioner, circa 1504-1529.

WHY THESE PHOTOGRAPHS MATTER

Together, these photographs connect the written historical record to surviving material evidence in Fiesole: Folchi episcopal heraldry, a dated 1521 commission naming Guglielmo Folchi, and the Folchi funerary monument. They complement the historical drawn coat of arms and the documentary records reproduced elsewhere in this volume.

The historical evidence establishes the Folchi ecclesiastical and heraldic presence at Fiesole. It does not, by itself, establish a continuous genealogical descent from the Fiesole Folchi family to every later family bearing the Folchi surname.

SOURCES & VISUAL RECORD

Primary historical and photographic references

University of Virginia Sepoltuario - Folchi family heraldry

<https://sepoltuario.iath.virginia.edu/groups/3060>

University of Virginia Sepoltuario - Cappella de Folchi

<https://sepoltuario.iath.virginia.edu/memorials/31998>

University of Virginia Sepoltuario - Folchi tomb

<https://sepoltuario.iath.virginia.edu/memorials/31999>

Catholic-Hierarchy - Bishop Roberto Folchi

<https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bfolchir.html>

Catholic-Hierarchy - Diocese of Fiesole chronology

<https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dfies.html>

Museo Bandini di Fiesole guide - Guglielmo Folchi arms/tabernacle

https://www.piccoligrandimusei.it/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/MUSEO-BANDINI-di-FIESOLE_imp.pdf

Wikimedia Commons - Duomo di Fiesole interior

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duomo_di_fiesole,_interno.JPG

Wikimedia Commons - Guglielmo Folchi monument

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_del_tadda_\(attr.\)_monumento_del_vescovo_di_fiesole_Guglielmo_Folchi,_1530-50_ca._,ricomposto_nel_1854.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_del_tadda_(attr.)_monumento_del_vescovo_di_fiesole_Guglielmo_Folchi,_1530-50_ca._,ricomposto_nel_1854.jpg)

Wikimedia Commons - House of Folchi photographic collection

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:House_of_Folchi

The historical drawn arms are reproduced in their original appearance. The modern FNL artwork is presented separately so that historical evidence and contemporary artistic treatment remain clearly distinguishable.