

## Lorenzo de Medici, Duke of Urbino

The political action of Duke Lorenzo, to whom Macchiavelli dedicated the *Prince*, was actually mediocre, in contrast with Michelangelo's lofty treatment of his effigy. Vasari described it as pensive and others have seen it as a personification of the contemplative life, attributing a pregnant Neoplatonic significance to it: The meditative expression of the face contrasts with the armor of imperial Rome and the helmet with its lion mask, while it is difficult to interpret the meaning of the box under the figure's left arm, perhaps a container for money and symbol of parsimony, and of the handkerchief in the Duke's hand.