

## David-Apollo

It seems that the statue now in the Bargello is the sculpture that Michelangelo made for Baccio Valori. An important figure on the Florentine political scene, Valori was initially a trusted counsellor of Duke Alessandro. After the latter was killed, however, he became a proud republican and fierce enemy of Cosimo. So the client's history would suggest that the statue is of David, a clear republican symbol of the struggle against tyranny. If this is so then the circular swelling on which his right foot rests could be a roughly carved representation of Goliath's head and the left hand behind his back could be holding the sling. Yet, the old documents also refer to the statue as Apollo, and this would fit with the clear, soft, and calmly rotund appearance of the musculature, with the figure in the act of taking an arrow from the quiver with its left hand. A possible reconciliation of these different reconstructions is provided by the story that Michelangelo had carved an *Apollo* for a man named Galli but then turned the incomplete sculpture into a *David* for Baccio Valori.