

**Lorenzo de' Medici (1449 - 1492) - Ruler of Florence and Art Patron, 1449 - 1492**

was born 1449 in Florence, Italy „Lorenzo The Magnificent," as he was called by the people of Florence, was a statesman, ruler, and patron of the arts. Perhaps Lorenzo's greatest contribution to history was his patronage of the arts. He contributed more than anyone to the flowering of Florentine genius in the late 15th century, supporting such giants as Leonardo da Vinci or Michellangelo. He died in 1492 (at the age of 43) at the dawn of a "the age of exploration." Christopher Columbus would reach the "New World" only six months later. Florentines were so moved by Lorenzo's premature death that the entire population of the city attended his funeral.