

Basic Detail Report

The funeral of Pope Pius XII in Rome, the largest congregation seen in the city at that time

Date

1958-1958

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Pope Pius XII died on the 9th October 1958. For his embalming, the Pope had not wanted the vital organs removed, demanding that his body be kept in the same condition "in which God created it". His physician and an embalmer from Naples, Professor Nuzzi, had used a new system with the same oils and resins with which the body of Jesus Christ had been preserved. However, the weather was so hot that the body decomposed rapidly, and the public viewing had to be terminated. His funeral procession into Rome was the largest congregation seen in the city up to that date. Pius XII was buried in the grottos beneath St. Peter's Basilica in a simple tomb in a small chapel.

Dimensions

Overall: 24.4 x 36.5 cm (9 5/8 x 14 3/8 in.)