Primary Maker: Unidentified maker
Title: Seal matrix
Date: ca. 1620
Medium: Silver
Dimensions: Overall: 1 × 1 3/8 in., 1 oz (troy) 5.7 dwt (2.5 × 3.5 cm, 40 g)
Credit Line: Gift of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V
Object Number: 1944.258

Object Name: Seal matrix
Classification: SILVER

Curatorial Remarks:
This seal matrix was used to facilitate communication between Amsterdam merchant Kiliaen Van Rensselaer (ca. 1580-1643), the first patroon and founder of the colony of Rensselaerswyck, and his agents in New Netherland. The matrix’s configuration and design are typical of pendant seals made in the Netherlands and England during the early seventeenth century. The cast and engraved matrix identifies its owner around the periphery and bears the family coat of arms at the center: a shield with moline cross with close helmet above, flanked by mantling, and a crest of a basket issuing flames.
Physical Description:
Cast circular matrix; obverse engraved with Van Rensselaer coat of arms at center (shield containing moline cross with close helmet above, flanked by foliate decoration, and crest of basket issuing flames); hinged openwork handle on reverse; part of chain attached. Star engraved on edge at top of seal. Unmarked.

Inscribed: INSRIPTION: "KILIAEN VAN RENSELAER." engraved on obverse around perimeter.
Markings: intaglio (inverted): on obverse: "KILIAEN VAN RENSELAER.[sic]"
Related Objects: