Bronze aquamanile, or ewer, in the shape of a lion biting a basilisk, used for pouring water on the hands at meals or for the liturgical washing of the priest's hands. There is an opening on the top of the lion's head for filling. The basilisk serves as handle and its head as a spout. Aquamaniles shaped as dragons, griffins, or unicorns indicate the medieval love for fantastic animals, and living animals were treated with more imagination than realism. Together with a horse aquamanile of the later Middle Ages, this early thirteenth-century German vessel has come to the Museum as a gift from Mrs. Leo S. Bing, 1952. Height 9½ inches. The objects on these pages may be seen in the Room of Recent Accessions on the second floor.
Portrait of a Young Lady by the British painter Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger (1561-1635). Formerly in Lord North's collection, Wroxton Abbey, Oxfordshire. Gift of Kate T. Davison in Memory of Her Husband, Henry Pomeroy Davison, 1951
Cupid asleep on a mound and leaning against a tree stump. This fine renaissance bronze—the original gilding on the details is intact—exemplifies in its subject the classicistic tendencies in the art of Venice and her neighboring cities at the beginning of the xvi century. It was formerly in the Stroganoff and Kern collections. Height 9 inches. Chapman Fund, 1951