

The following objects will be on display in the exhibition *Medieval Women: In Their Own Words* from 25 October 2024 to 2 March 2025

Musée du Louvre, 75001 Paris, France

Portrait of Margaret of York, painted in Belgium around 1468

- i. **type of object:** painting
- ii. **description of the material:** oil on wood
- iii. **identity and nationality of creators:** Anonymous
- iv. **the title:** Portrait of Margaret of York
- v. **dimensions:** height – 200mm (height with frame – 240mm) x width – 120mm (width with frame – 155mm) x depth – 30mm
- vi. **date:** around 1468
- vii. **Object number:** RF 1938 17



Portrait of Margaret of York

Margaret of York (d. 1503), Duchess of Burgundy, was renowned for her patronage of books, education and religion. The sister of Edward IV of England, she married Charles the Bold (d. 1477), Duke of Burgundy, in 1468. This portrait was probably painted soon after her marriage. The gold 'B' pin on her headdress signifies Burgundy, while the alternating letters 'C' and 'M' on her necklace stand for 'Charles' and 'Margaret'.

Provenance

Thomas Frognall Dibdin (b. 1776, d. 1847), English bibliographer and clergyman: acquired by him in France, according to an inscription in French written on the back of the painting.

Francis Douce (b. 1757, d., 1834), British antiquary and museum curator: given to him by his friend Reverend Dibdin, according to an inscription in English written on the back of the painting.

Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick (b. 1783, d. 1848), English collector and scholar of arms and armour: bequeathed to him as part of the collection of paintings, carvings and miscellaneous antiquities left to him by Francis Douce. Meyrick published an account of the collection, called *The Doucean Museum*.

General A. W. H. Meyrick: his sale, Christie's, 31 May 1902, lot 138; purchased by Walter Dowdeswell (b. 1858, d. 1929), a London-based art dealer.

Walter Gay (b. 1856, d. 1937), American painter based in Paris from 1876: in his collection by 1907; given together with the rest of his collection to the Musée du Louvre in Paris by his widow Matilda E. Travers, in December 1937. The painting was inventoried in the following year, where it was described as a portrait of 'Marie d'Anjou, femme de Charles VII'.

Housed at the Musée du Louvre since its acquisition.

References (selected)

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Bruna, Denis (dir.), *Des Cheveux et des poils*, cat. exp. (Paris (Externe, France), Musée des Arts décoratifs-MAD, 5 avril - 17 septembre 2023), Paris, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, 2023, p. 29, n°02 p. 29 et 33

Maurice-Chabard, Brigitte ; Jugie, Sophie ; Paviot, Jacques (dir.), *Miroir du Prince*, cat. exp. (Saône-et-Loire, Autun (Externe, France), Musée Rolin, 2021), Autun, Gand, Musée Rolin, Snoeck, 2021, p. 98

Séguin, François (dir.), *Les Puys d'Amiens. Chefs d'œuvre de la cathédrale Notre-Dame*, cat. exp. (Amiens (Externe, France), Musée de Picardie, 2021), Dijon, Faton, 2021,

Deprouw, Stéphanie, « Jean Beugier, alias le Maître des Portraits princiers: Un peintre de la fin du XVe siècle entre Amiens, Bruxelles et Bruges », *Revue de l'art*, n° 208, 2020-2, 2020, p. 17-29, p. 22, ill. coul. p.23, n° 8

Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (dir.), *L'héritage de Rogier van der Weyden. La peinture à Bruxelles 1450-1520*, cat. exp. (Bruxelles (Belgique), Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, 2013), Tielt/Bruxelles, Editions Lannoo, 2013, p. 238-239, coul, p. 238, n° 48

Foucart-Walter, Élisabeth (dir.), Foucart, Jacques, *Catalogue des peintures flamandes et hollandaises du musée du Louvre*, [Musée du Louvre, département des Peintures], Paris, Editions Gallimard / Musée du Louvre Editions, 2009, p. 54, ill. n&b

Charles le Téméraire, cat. exp. (Bruges, Groeningemuseum, 27 mars 2009; Vienne, 14 septembre 2009), 2009,

Eichberger, Dagmar (dir.), *Women of Distinction. Margaret of York, Margaret of Austria*, cat. exp. (Malines (Belgique), Lamot, 17 septembre - 18 décembre 2005), Brepols Publishers, Malines, 2005, p. 68, 150, ill. coul., cat. 1

Musée du Louvre, 75001 Paris, France

Carved ivory cross of Sibylle of Flanders, made in the Meuse Valley in the 12th century

- viii. **type of object:** carved cross
- ix. **description of the material:** ivory
- x. **identity and nationality of creators:** anonymous
- xi. **the title:** Cross of Sibylle of Flanders

- xii. **dimensions:** height – 185mm x width – 140mm x depth – 16mm
- xiii. **date:** 12th century
- xiv. **object number:** OA 2593



Cross of Sibylle of Flanders

At the base of this intricately carved cross, made of walrus ivory, is a prostrate female figure, raising her hands to the crucified Christ. The inscription names her 'Sibille', the countess of Flanders, who acted as regent while her husband was on crusade in the 1140s. After visiting Jerusalem in the 1150s, Sibylle refused to return home with her husband, instead entering a convent just outside the city. The cross itself formed part of the cover of a gospel book.

Provenance

Joseph Anton Essingh (d. 1864), Cologne art collector: his sale, 18 September 1865, lot 845.

Jacques Philippe Bouvier (d. 1873), also known as Bouvier d'Amiens: his sale, December 1873, lot 11, purchased by a 'Monsieur Couvreur' for the sum of 480 francs.

'Monsieur Couvreur', collector: in his possession between December 1873 and May 1875; the sale of his estate, Paris, Hotel Drouout, 26-28 May 1875, lot 22.

Louis-Charles Timbal (b. 1821, d. 1880), art critic and collector: no. 40 in his collection of objects sold to the Musée du Louvre in Paris by his widow in 1882.

Housed at the Musée du Louvre since its acquisition in 1882.

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Boehm, Barbara Drake (dir.), *Jerusalem 1000–1400 : Every People Under Heaven*, cat. exp. (New York (Etats-Unis), Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2016), New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2016, fig. p. 248, n° 123

Martinez, Jean-Luc ; Miura, Atsushi (dir.), *La Méditerranée dans les collections du Louvre*, cat. exp. (Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, du 20 juillet au 23 septembre 2013; Pékin, Musée National de Chine du 28 octobre 2013 au 10 février 2014), Tokyo, Osaka, Nikkei Inc.; NKH, NHK Promotions Inc., 2013, n° 147

Une Renaissance. L'art entre Flandre et Champagne 1150-1250, cat. exp. (Saint-Omer, musée de l'hôtel Sandelin, 05/04-30/06/2013 ; Paris, musée de Cluny, 17/04-15/07/2013), Paris, Réunion des musées nationaux, 2013, p. 97, n° Cat. 32

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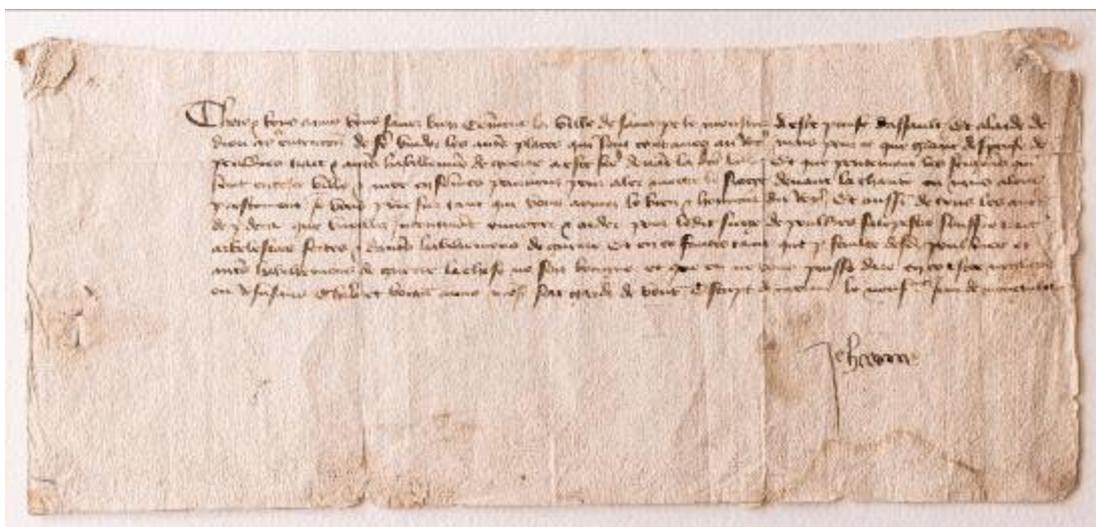
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Gaborit-Chopin, Danielle ; Alcouffe, Daniel ; Bardoz, Marie-Cécile, *Ivoires médiévaux : Ve-XVe siècle : catalogue*, Paris, Réunion des musées nationaux, 2003, n° 80

Ville de Riom, Archives municipales, 3 Rue du Général Chapsal, 63200 Riom, France

Letter from Joan of Arc to the citizens of Riom, written in Moulins (France), 9 November 1429

- xv. **type of object:** letter
- xvi. **description of the material:** ink on paper
- xvii. **identity and nationality of creators:** an anonymous scribe and Joan of Arc, French
- xviii. **the title:** Letter from Joan of Arc to the citizens of Riom
- xix. **page dimensions:** height – 130mm x width – 287mm
- xx. **date:** 9 November 1429
- xxi. **shelfmark:** AA 33



Description

When Joan of Arc sent this letter to the citizens of Riom, she was planning to besiege the town of La-Charité-sur-Loire but her army's supplies were running low. She entreated the city to assist by sending gunpowder and military equipment. Being illiterate, Joan dictated her letter to a scribe, but signed her own name, 'Jehanne', at the end. This is the earliest of three surviving examples of Joan's signature, her large uncertain letterforms suggesting her unfamiliarity with writing.

Provenance

9 November 1429: sent by Joan of Arc to the inhabitants of Riom.

1844: the letter was discovered in the town archives of Riom by M. Tailhand, president of the Cour Royale of Riom, and then published in several daily newspapers. The discovery was soon afterwards reported in the journal *Bibliothèque de l'École des chartes*, vol. 5 (Paris, 1843 – 1844), pp. 518-519.

The letter has been preserved continuously in the archives of Riom; I have found no evidence that it has ever left Riom. The letter was (first?) published in photographic facsimile in Comte de Maleissye, *Reliques de Jehanne d'Arc: ses lettres* (Paris: Bloud, 1909), pp. 15.

References (selected)

M. Pierre Duparc, 'A propos des lettres de Jeanne d'Arc', *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires de France* Année 1991 (1989), pp. 71-80

Comte de Maleissye, *Reliques de Jehanne d'Arc: ses lettres* (Paris: Bloud, 1909), pp. 15.

Should you have any questions regarding the loan of these items please contact Xerxes Mazda, Head of Collections and Curation, Xerxes.Mazda@bl.uk.