

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM'S RAREST TREASURES: Fewer Than Fifty Are Marked ...

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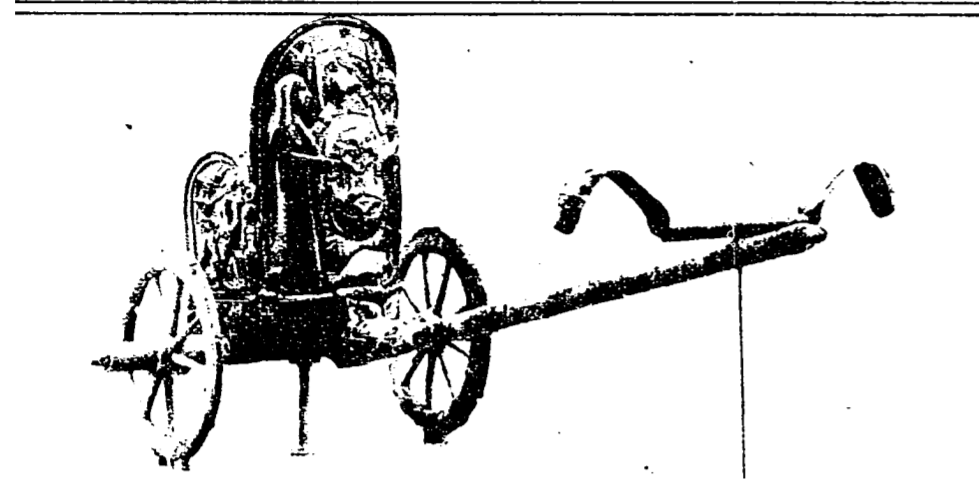
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METROPOLITAN MUSEUM'S RAREST TREASURES

Fewer Than Fifty Are Marked With Double Stars on the New List



Cedar Statuette of King Sesostris I, Twelfth Egyptian Dynasty.



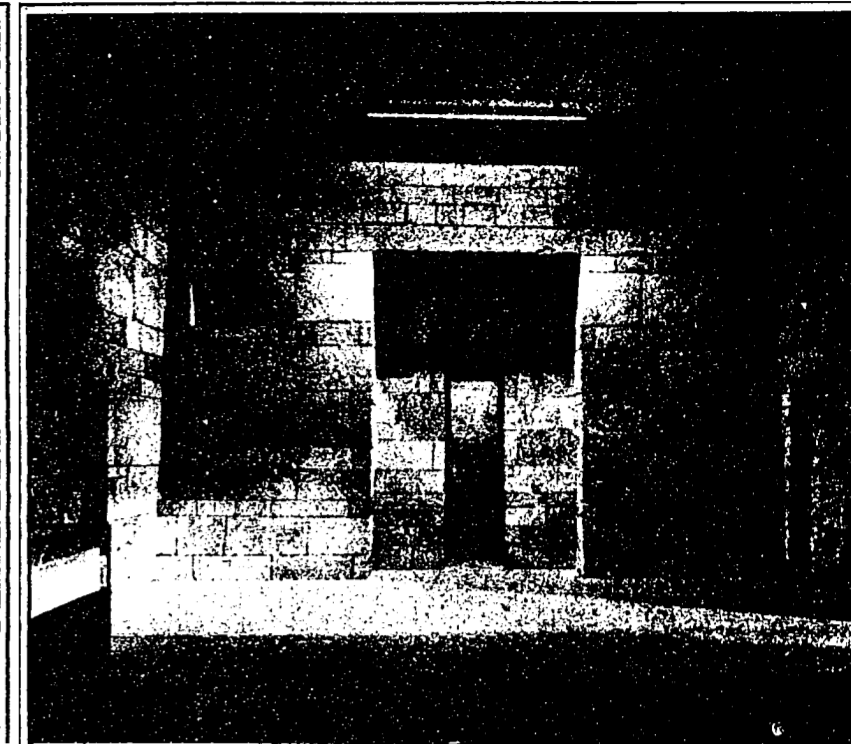
Famous Etruscan Bronze Chariot, Only Fairly Complete One Known; Often Called the Rarest Object in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Life-Size Bronze Statue of a Boy, Imperial Roman Period.



Sumptuous French Tapestry, With Rose Background, Middle 15th Century, After Designs by Jean Fouquet.



Tomb of Perneb, Egyptian, 2650 B. C.—Entire Tomb With Its Contents Has Been Set Up in the Museum.

THE Metropolitan Museum of Art has made a list of its treasures which are regarded as having superlative value, beauty, rarity, and antiquity. There are fewer than fifty of them. The list has been printed in a small pamphlet for the benefit of the Museum visitors. Each of the treasures is double starred, so that the reader may pick them out easily. Following is the list of the double stars, arranged in order of rooms:

- Grave Stone, Archaic Period.
- Bronze Statue, Young Roman.
- Etruscan Bronze Chariot.
- Pyxis Toilet Vase.
- Boscoreale Room.
- Tomb of Perneb.
- Statuette King Sesostris I.
- Alabaster Canopic Jar.
- Wall Relief, Rameses I., Seto I.
- Negroli Helmet.
- Byzantine Ivories.
- Cloisonné Enamels.
- Limoges Enamels.
- French Ivories.
- French Tapestries.
- Entombment, Château de Biron.
- Pieta, Château de Biron.
- Alabaster Spanish Retable.
- Rossellino Nativity Group.
- Hubert Robert Wall Paintings.
- James Stuart, by Van Dyck.
- A Visit to the Nursery, by Metsu.
- Madonna, Raphael.
- Rembrandt Paintings (13).
- Betrothal of St. Catherine, Memling.
- Margaret Wyatt, Lady Lee, Holbein.
- Madonna and Child, della Robbia.
- Madonna and Child, Donatello.
- Madonna and Child, Rossellino.
- Madonna and Child, Giovanni Bellini.
- Meditation on the Passion, Carpaccio.
- Young Woman With Water Jug, Vermeer.
- Madam Charpentier and Children, Renoir.
- Paintings by Eduard Manet (4).
- The Sower, Millet.
- Fall and Redemption of Man, Tapestry, Gothic.
- Annunciation Angel, Statue, Matteo Civitelli.
- Virgin and Child, Statue, French Gothic.

Madonna and Child, Relief, Verrocchio.
Royal Cylinder Desk, Louis XVI.
Flower Pots of Chinese Empress.
Japanese Screen.
Room of Carved Indian Woodwork.
Tree Carpet.
Engraved Armor for Man and Horse, Overlaid With Gold.
Seven Colossal Stone Statues of the Goddess Sekhmet.

A number of years ago the director of the Museum was asked what was the one great treasure among its many. He answered that it was the wonderful old Etruscan chariot in bronze, the only complete one in the world. It is a magnificent triumphal affair and was found in the tomb of the hero who once rode

proudly in it through the streets of ancient Rome. The chariot still occupies a first place among the treasures, but it must share honors with the Morgan Raphael, the "Colonna Madonna," which hangs facing the main staircase, in the place of honor among all the paintings. The "Madonna Enthroned with Saints" was painted by Raphael, when he was little more than a boy, for the Convent of St. Antony of Padua. From that time it had a long and interesting history, until it came into the hands of the late J. Pierpont Morgan and was sent to this country in 1912 with a number of paintings from the banker's London home. The value of the picture is not

only in its beauty and charm, but that it is no longer possible to obtain a Raphael. The works of others of the great masters might come on the market, but Raphaels are all in museums. The Egyptian Tomb of Perneb, with its different chambers of stone, its inscriptions and decorations, lifted in its entirety from the country of the Nile and set up in the Museum, a feat which even the museum at Cairo has not attempted, is one of the great features of the Egyptian department. There, too, is the tiny cedar statuette of King Sesostris I, wearing the crown of Lower Egypt, still showing the color of wonderful Egyptian red. Near by are the great wall reliefs from the Temple of Rameses I, completed by his son, Seto.

Just arrived in this country, delayed by the war since 1914, are the black granite figures of the lion-headed war goddess Sekhmet. King Amenhotep erected a temple in Karnak, where he placed a "grove" of these immense granite statues, more than half a hundred. He was a man of peace and placed them there to appease the war goddess. Seven of them have been presented to the Museum by Henry Walters. Bashford Dean, Curator of Armors and Armor, has double starred only one piece in the Museum's armor collection, the magnificent casque made by the famous Milanese armorer Negroli for that French King of many interests, Francis I.

The late Empress Dowager of China considered the pair of Chun flowerpot, worthy of a place beside her throne in the Forbidden City to hold the flowers from her garden. Near this is India's contribution, the finest of the Museum's wood carvings, a small room with domed ceiling.

In tapestries the Museum has a rich collection, including the famous Brussels tapestry of 1500, with the cartoon by Jan van Room. Unlike most such tapestries, it is signed. It is a lovely thing in color and fineness of weave as well as in the beauty of its design.

The Metropolitan Museum has, of course, many paintings of the Madonna and Child in different forms, and much sculpture from old chapels and churches. Pons de Goutaut, the French Seigneur de Biron, in 1495 obtained the permission of the Pope to erect a private two-story chapel at the Château de Biron. To the lower floor was admitted the public, and above the family worshipped. Here were lovely masterpieces of Gothic sculpture. The Entombment, a monumental work,

with figures wonderfully carved, and the Pieta are two of them which have come to New York. A Spanish retable of the fifteenth century from an archiepiscopal palace is carved entirely from alabaster. In the same gallery is a lovely Nativity Group, in painted terra cotta, each figure separate—a sweet-faced mother, the reclining Babe, St. Joseph, the Ox and the Ass.

In the Altman collection all of the thirteen Rembrandts are double starred as one lot—it is impossible to choose between them, but the "Old Woman Cutting Her Nails," with its wonderful lights and color, is at least popularly considered the finest. Memling's "Betrothal of St. Catherine" in the same collection has a great charm. Margaret Wyatt, Lady Lee, is a wonderfully strong portrait by Holbein. Luca Della Robbia has contributed a lovely Madonna and Child, in enameled terra cotta of glistening white. The Mother and Child by Donatello is in terra cotta, painted and gilded. Rossellino has a marble relief of the same subject.

Among the Italian paintings is a great Bellini, one of the loveliest of his pictures of the Madonna and Child. Another Italian, the Venetian painter Carpaccio, represents a different extreme of art in his forceful "Meditation on the Passion." There are two Vermeers, one in the Altman collection and another given many years ago by Henry Marquand.

"Madam Charpentier and Her Children" is a beautiful early painting by Renoir; the mother is in black, the two little girls in pale blue, one sitting upon a dog. The expression on the face of

the mother, the brilliant background, the introduction of still life, are all distinctive. Manet's paintings are double starred in a group. Among these the "Boy with the Sword" is best known. Millet's "Sower" is one of the great pictures of the world. The Museum has two portraits of George Washington by Stuart. Eight decorative wall paintings by Hubert Rubert are double starred together, all of them gay, brilliant and typically French.

There is a wondrous collection of furniture, the Metropolitan having been the first museum to specialize in early American. The prize treasure of the cabinetmaker's art, however, is a recent addition, a wonderful desk which belonged to Louis XVI, with secret keyholes and two little central doors, which the King might open to speak to his secretary, who shared the desk from the rear. A superb tree carpet is the one rug which is marked among the super-excellent.

If the Museum had starred its unrivaled collections as such, that of the lace would be one. Even in the lace-making countries there is none equal to it. The collection of musical instruments also is extraordinary. The Cesnola collection of antiquities from Cyprus is unequalled in the world. Also one sees the unique Roman glass display, with the colors of hundreds of rainbows, and the jade collection, which has treasures not to be found outside China. Four collections of small articles which are of the greatest rarity and doubled starred are Byzantine ivories, translucent Cloisonné enamels on gold and silver, thirteenth century Limoges enamels, and French ivories of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.



One of the Statues of the Lion-Headed Goddess of War, Sekhmet, Black Granite, from Karnak.



The Northeaster, One of a Double Starred Group of Sea Pieces by the American Artist, Winslow Homer.



Angel of the Annunciation, Life Size, Painted on Terra Cotta by Matteo Civitelli.



Madam Charpentier and Her Children, Example of the Earlier Style of the French Artist Renoir.

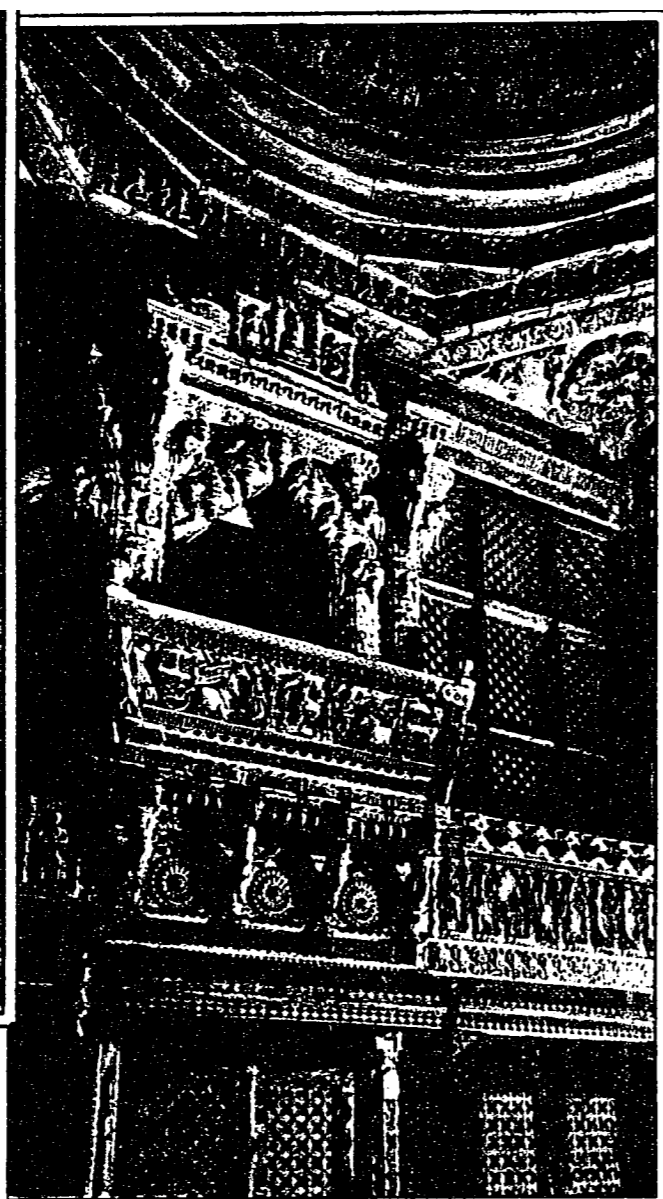


Madonna Enthroned With Saints, Painted in 1504-05 by Raphael at the Age of 21.

"Double Stars" in the Art Museum's Treasure List



Old Lady Cutting Her Nails, Most Celebrated of Thirteen Rembrandts in the Altman Collection.



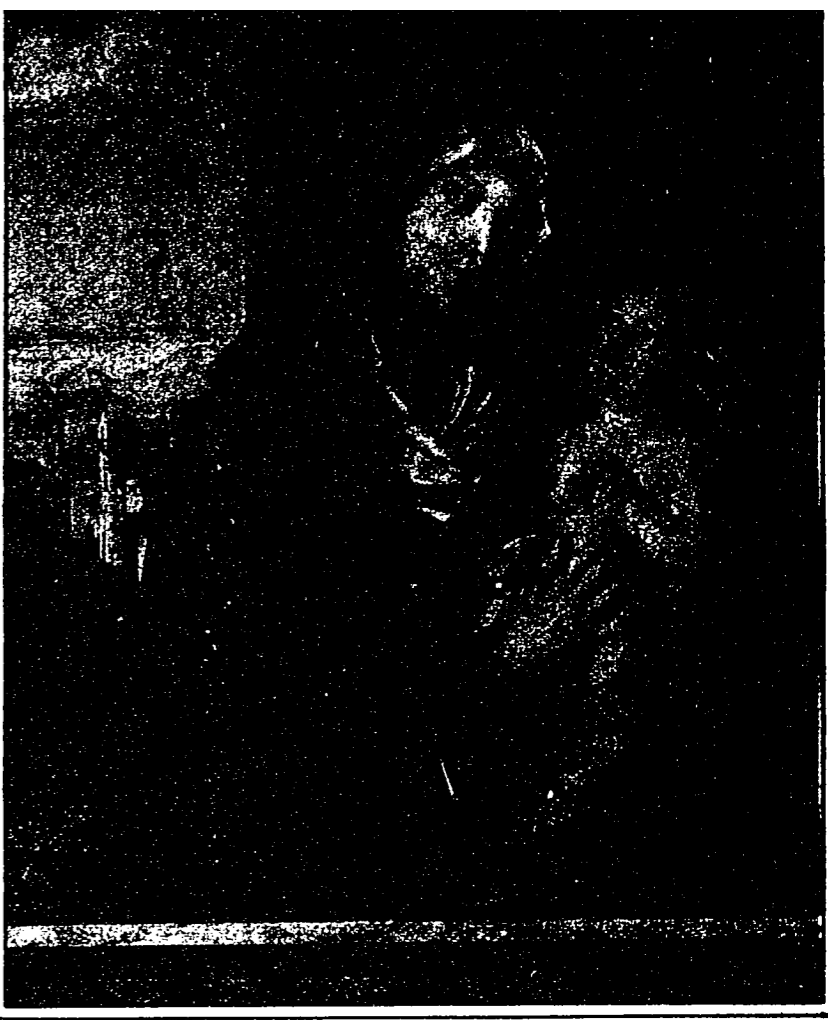
Small Room from Indian Temple of Vadi Parasnath at Pattan, Sixteenth Century, Made Entirely of Carved Woodwork.



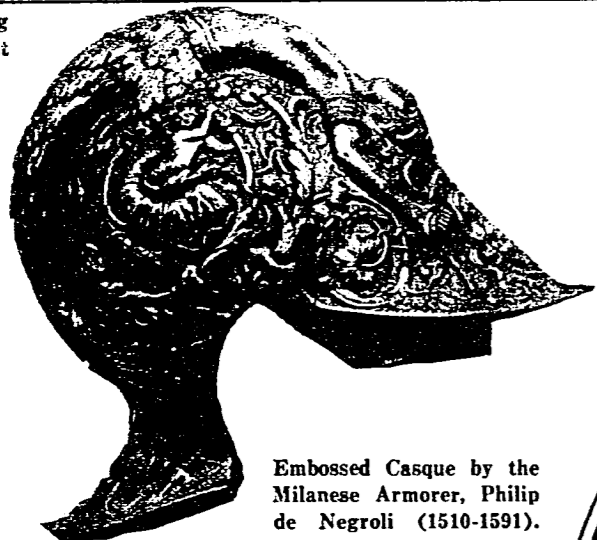
Madonna and Child, Relief in Marble by Antonio Rossellino, Altman Collection. Reproduced by Courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art.



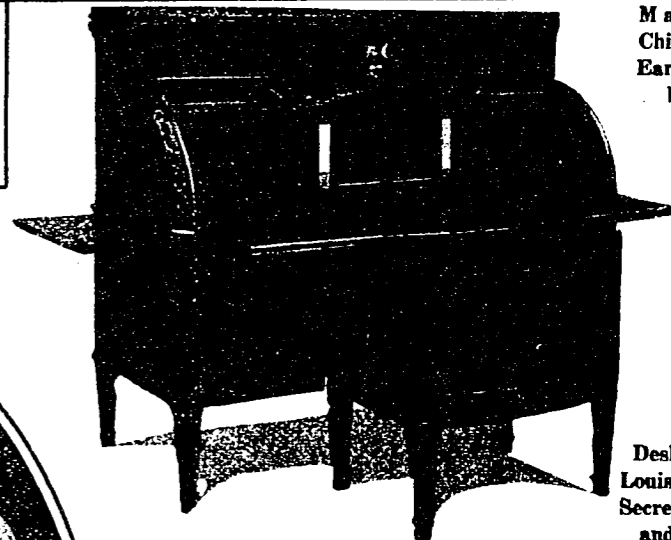
James Stuart, Duke of Lenox and Richmond, Cousin of King Charles I. of England—a Famous Example of the Work of Van Dyck.



Madonna and Child, one of the Earliest Paintings by Giovanni Bellini.



Embossed Casque by the Milanese Armorer, Philip de Negroli (1510-1591).



Desk Probably Louis XVI's, With Secret Keyholes and Drawers.



Madonna and Child in the Collection of French Ivories, 13th Century.

At the Left: One of Eight Decorative Wall Paintings by Hubert Robert (1733-1808). Made Originally for the Chateau of Razatelle.

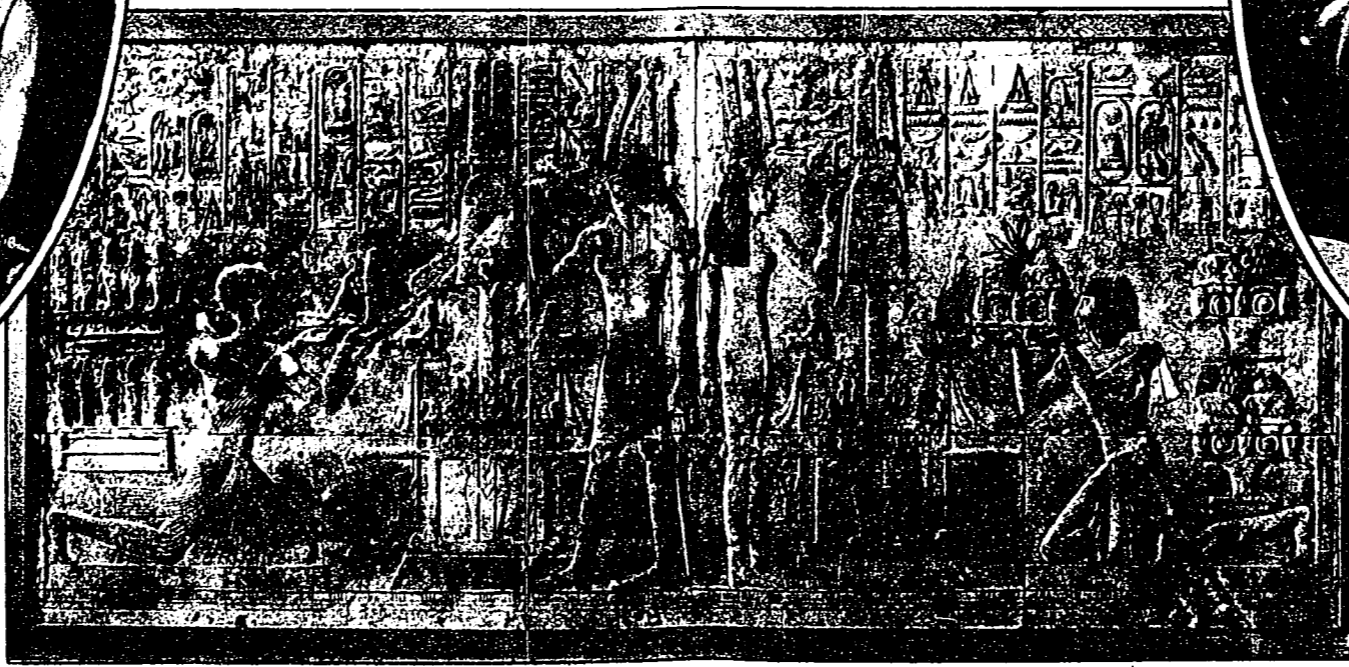


Nativity Group in Painted Terra Cotta by the Florentine Sculptor Rossellino (1426-1478).



Madonna and Child, Masterpiece of the Italian Sculptor Luca Della Robbia, Enameled Terra Cotta, All White.

At the Right: Margaret Wyatt, Lady Lee, a Holbein Portrait from the Altman Collection.



Example of Egyptian Temple Relief (1315-1292 B. C.), Ramses I., and His Son Set I, Are Shown Presenting Offerings to Osiris and Isis.

