

The Arts of the Middle Ages

Exhibition at French & Company

A precedent-setting exhibition, entitled "The Arts of the Middle Ages," is on view through September 30 at the galleries of French & Company, Inc., 978 Madison Avenue, New York. On display are unforgettable treasures of the Gothic era, an age whose art was distinguished by a perfect balance—perhaps never again equalled—between poignant simplicity of basic form and restrained intricacy of ornamental detail. The exhibition includes sculptures, stained glass, embroidery, textiles, and tapestries.

Two of the extraordinarily beautiful

sculptures, a French marble Madonna and Child and a Spanish wooden Christ, date back to the 12th century; others are of the 14th and 15th centuries. The magnificent Gothic furniture group includes an exquisitely detailed 15th century oak French (or Flemish) dressoir and a 15th century carved walnut chest from Italy's Val d'Aosta. Among the remarkably preserved stained glass is a 14th century Austrian glass window of a female saint, formerly in the William Randolph Hearst collection. Many of the Brussels tapestries have romantic histories. One, a court scene (circa 1500), was presented to the Cathedral of Saragossa by King Ferdinand of Aragon (1452-1516), the husband of Columbus' protectress, Queen Isabella. An-

other is one of a set hung in the Cathedral of Palencia for state occasions.

The exhibition was organized to honor two consecutive meetings of art groups in New York: the Twentieth International Congress of the History of Art, September 7-12 at Columbia University and the New York University Institute of Fine Arts, and the College Art Association of America, September 13-15 at the Hotel Biltmore. The first group includes distinguished art authorities of the world; the second, art museum directors and college professors of the United States and Canada.

French & Company's galleries are open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; on Saturdays, however, they close at 5:00 P.M.

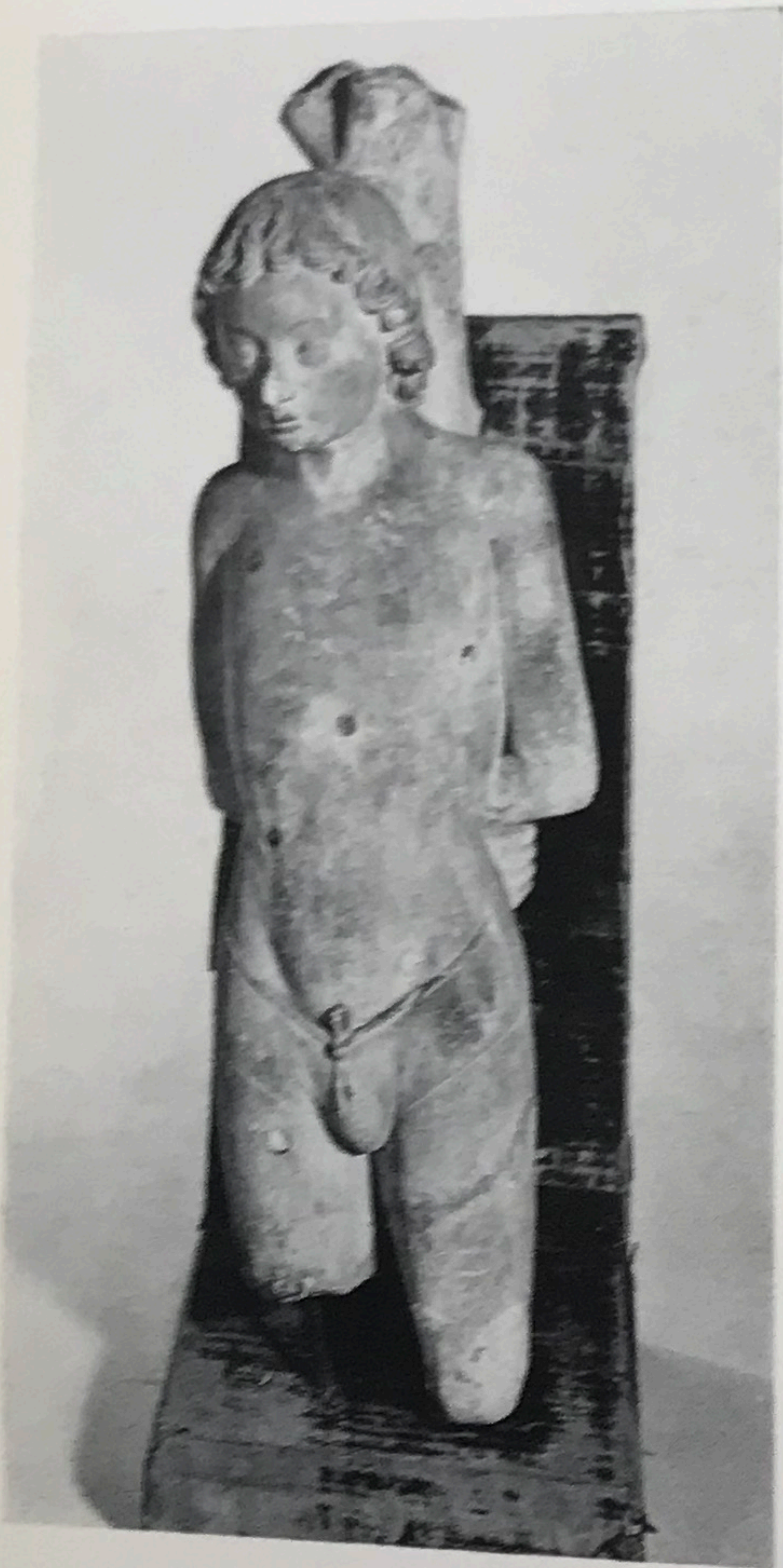
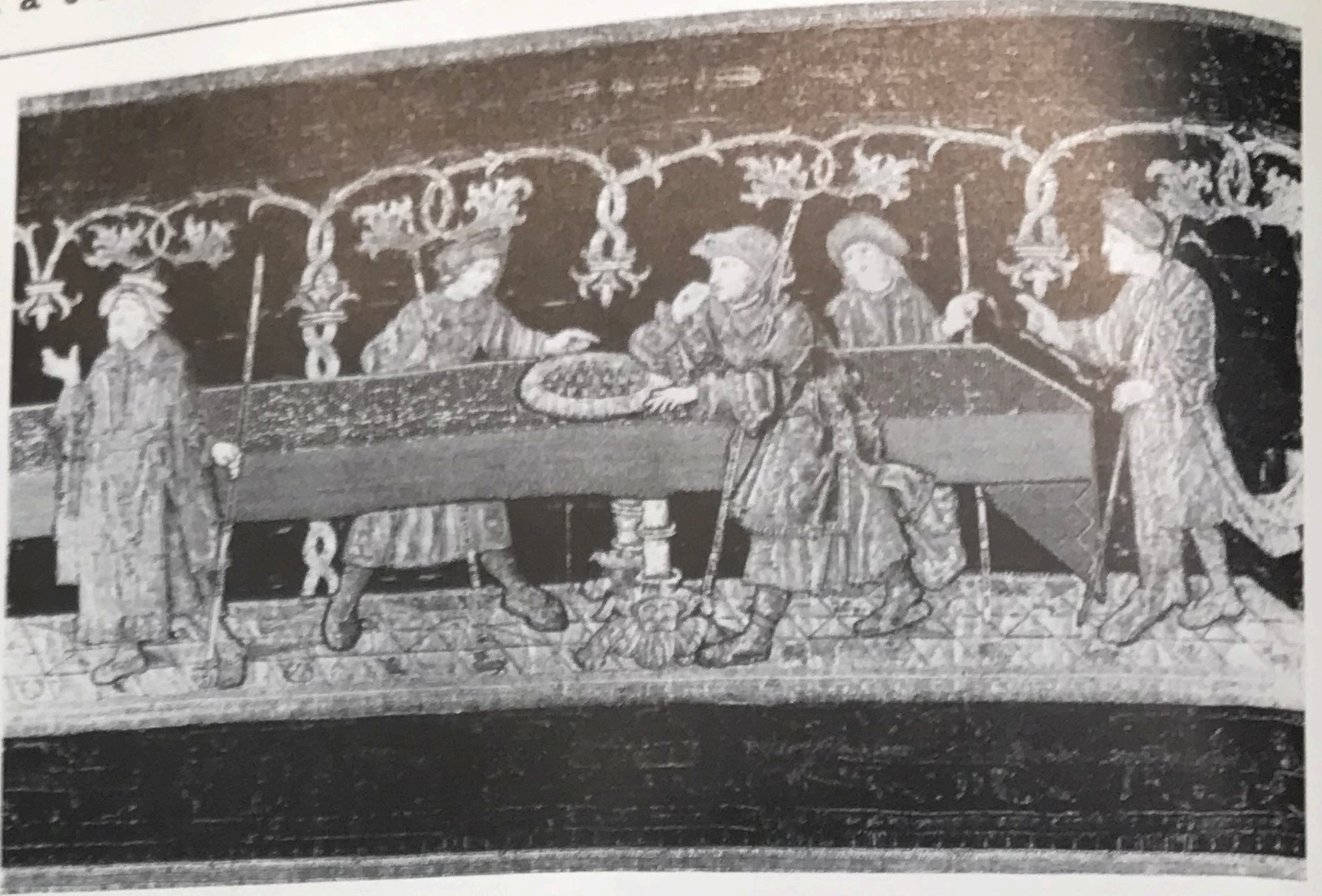


A late 14th century Franco-Flemish Caen stone sculpture of the Madonna and Child, showing the Madonna seated underneath a canopy rich in Gothic tracery and ornamentation. The 25" x 16" x 9" piece from the Cathedral of Tournai still shows a few traces of the original polychromy.

For your information

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"The Feast of the Passover," 6'4" x 1'8", is one of four 15th century Spanish or Flemish embroidered panels which together form a dais canopy. The figures on a red velvet ground are executed in colored silk highlighted with gold and silver threads. Bordering the panel is a narrow red velvet band with impressed designs.



A 15th century French Caen stone sculpture achieves its power through understating the horror of St. Sebastian's martyrdom. He is depicted in the touching posture of tranquil resignation. 34" high.

A 15th century slightly polychromed walnut French Dressoir, 6'7" x 3'6" x 17 1/2", is divided by carved pilasters into panels with architectural niches and figures or scenes in relief. The side panels are embellished with linenfold paneling. On the two doors are original wrought iron hinges and locks.

