


302  Don't assume that this gallery is just a corridor that leads from one place to another—it's full of hidden surprises. In tall curtained cases you'll find the ornately bound books that first sparked Isabella Gardner's passion for collecting. Lifting the cloth coverings of the low cases will reveal letters and memorabilia that reflect her interest in historical celebrities, from the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots (1542–1587) to the popular Victorian poet Robert Browning (1812–1889)—and many more presidents, politicians, writers, painters, and actors in between.

The two ends of the gallery showcase the artistic innovations of the later middle ages and the Italian renaissance, featuring stained glass from a French Gothic cathedral at one end and Florentine oil paintings and terracotta sculpture at the other. This installation shows how changes in art can mark the passage of time, and also serves as a reminder of how much art has been created in the service of religion.



Sandro Botticelli

Italian (Florence), 1444/5–1510

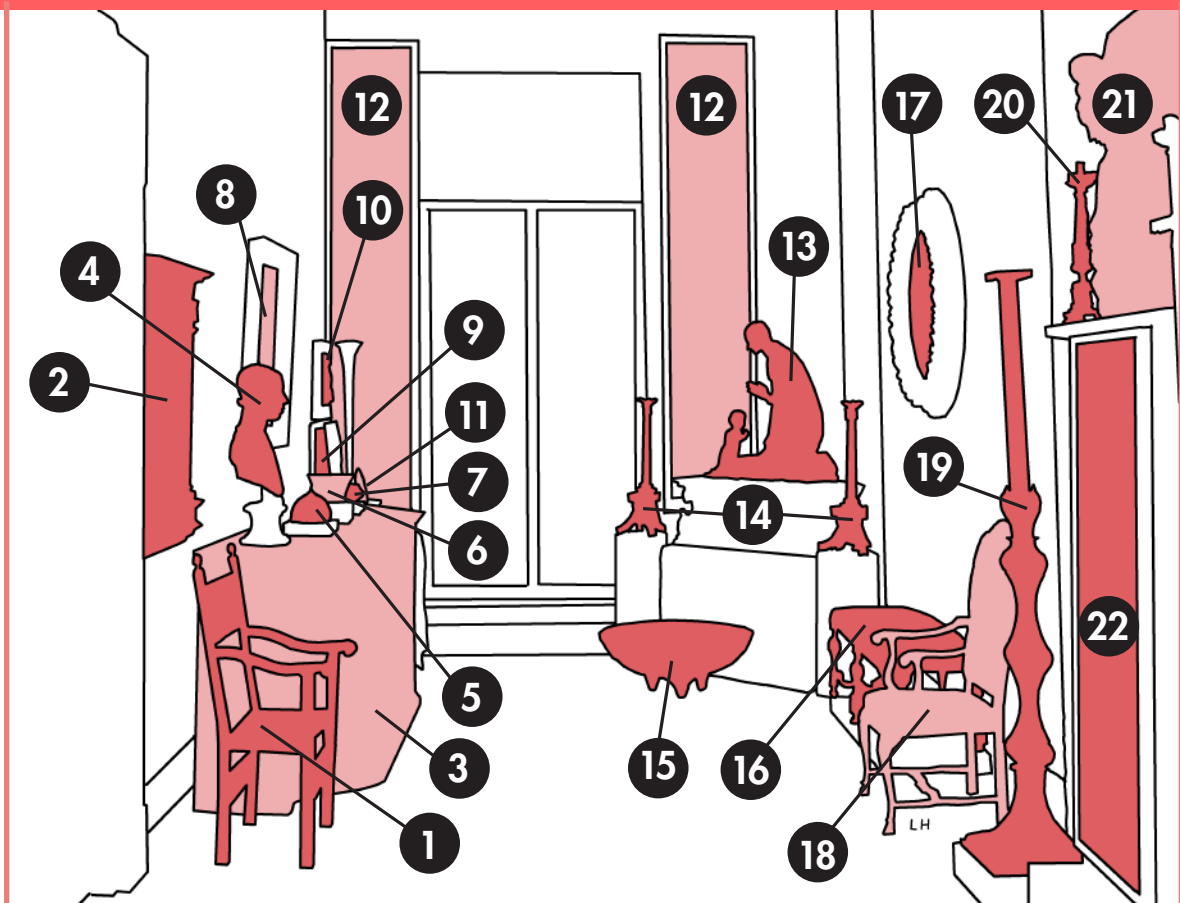
Virgin and Child with an Angel, early 1470s
Tempera and oil on wood


33

Isabella Gardner collected many paintings and sculptures of Mary holding the infant Jesus, including this beautiful early work by Botticelli. The angel, Virgin, and Christ Child all look down at a bowl of grapes decorated with ears of grain. Grapes and wheat produce the wine and bread of the Eucharist, a central Christian sacrament that alludes to Christ's sacrifice of body and blood in the Crucifixion. The Virgin carefully selects some of the wheat to signify that she understands the fate in store for her son, while the infant Jesus raises his right hand in a teaching gesture.

While a devout Anglican herself, Gardner was fascinated by other religions. On the chest in front of this painting she placed a piece of an Islamic mosque lamp. Notice how the delicate painted decoration in blue and red reflects both the primary colors of Botticelli's painting and the calligraphic lines of the angel's embroidered collar. Was Gardner suggesting some underlying similarities between religions and their use of art?

LONG GALLERY • NORTH END



1. **Armchair.** Spanish, 18th century. Walnut

2. **Tabernacle.** Italian (Florence), 1470s. Workshop of Andrea della Robbia (Italian, 1435–1525). Glazed terracotta


3. **Sideboard.** Italian (Florence), late 15th century. Wood

4. **Bust of Raffaello Riario, Cardinal Sansoni.** Italian, early 16th century. Marble

5. **Helmet.** North Indian, 17th or 18th century. Metal

6. **Fragment of Mosque Lamp.** Syrian or Egyptian, mid-14th century. Glass

7. **Bowl.** Syro-Egyptian, mid-14th century. Brass

 8. **Virgin and Child with an Angel,** early 1470s. Sandro Botticelli (Italian, 1444/45–1510). Tempera and oil on wood

9. **Portrait of Petrus Bon,** late 15th century. Pietro Lombardo (Italian, about 1435–1515). Marble

10. **Woman in Profile,** about 1475. Mino da Fiesole (Italian, 1429–1484). Marble

11. **Plate.** Italian (Venice), 16th century. Brass inlaid with silver

12. **Textile.** Italian, 1450–1500. Velvet

13. **Virgin Adoring the Child,** about 1480. Matteo Civitali (Italian, 1436–1501). Terracotta

14. **Candlesticks.** French, 19th century. Brass

15. **Basin.** Japanese, mid-19th century. Bronze

16. **Bench.** Italian, 17th–18th century. Gilded wood

17. **The Nativity,** about 1482–85. Follower of Sandro Botticelli(?). Tempera on wood

18. **Armchair.** Italian (Venice), mid-18th century. Walnut

19. **Floor Candlestick.** Russian, 19th century. Brass

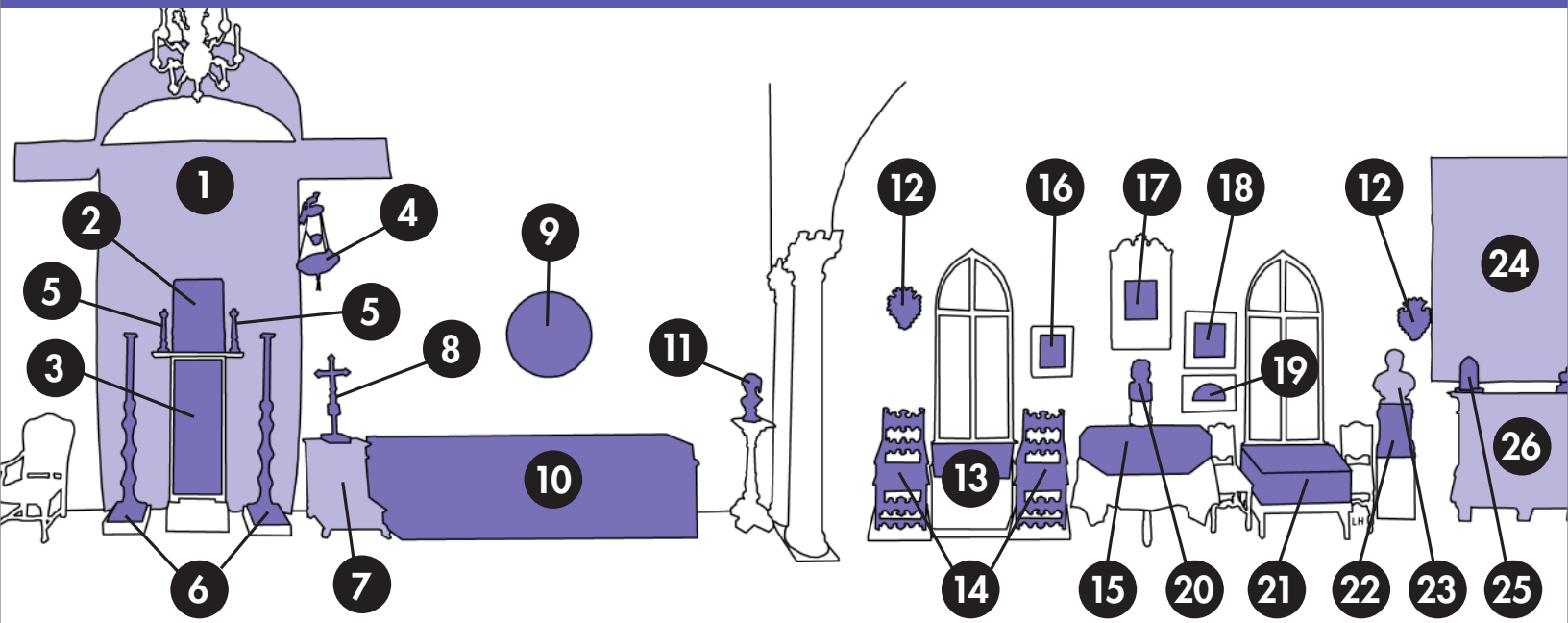
20. **Candlestick.** Spanish or Italian, 19th century. Wood

21. **Virgin and Child,** 19th century. Imitator of Antonio Rosselino (Italian). Marble

22. **Garment Fabric.** Turkish, 17th century. Velvet

LONG GALLERY • EAST WALL, LEFT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE ON REVERSE >



1. Canopy and Dossal. Italian, 16th century. Velvet

2. Virgin and Child, 19th century. Imitator of Antonio Rosselino (Italian). Marble

3. Garment Fabric. Turkish, 17th century. Velvet

4. Hanging Lamp. Spanish, 1602. Silver

5. Candlestick. Spanish or Italian, 19th century. Wood

6. Floor Candlesticks. Russian, 19th century. Brass

7. Prie-dieu (prayer desk). Italian, late 17th century. Inlaid satinwood, mahogany, and burl walnut

8. Processional Cross. Spanish, about 1450. Gilded silver and enamel on a wood core

9. Virgin and Child, about 1494–97. Benedetto da Maiano (Italian, 1442–1497). Terracotta

10. Case with presidential and statesman memorabilia

11. Bust of a Young Girl, about 1860. Giovanni Bastianini (Italian, 1830–1868)? Terracotta

12. Candle Bracket. Italian, 17th century. Painted and gilded wood

13. Case with authors (including Robert Browning) memorabilia

14. Armchairs. Italian, 17th century. Walnut with inlay

15. Case with painters and sculptors memorabilia

16. Battista Sforza, Countess of Urbino, late 18th–19th century. Copy after original by Piero della Francesco. Oil on wood

17. Virgin and Child, late 18th–early 19th century. Copy after Bernardino Luini. Oil on wood

18. A Procurator of St. Mark, late 16th century. Copy after Tintoretto. Oil on canvas

19. The Adoration of the Kings, about 1894. Joseph Lindon Smith (American, 1863–1950). Oil on cardboard

20. Herm, probably Dionysus. Graeco-Roman, 1st century. Marble

21. Case with English authors memorabilia

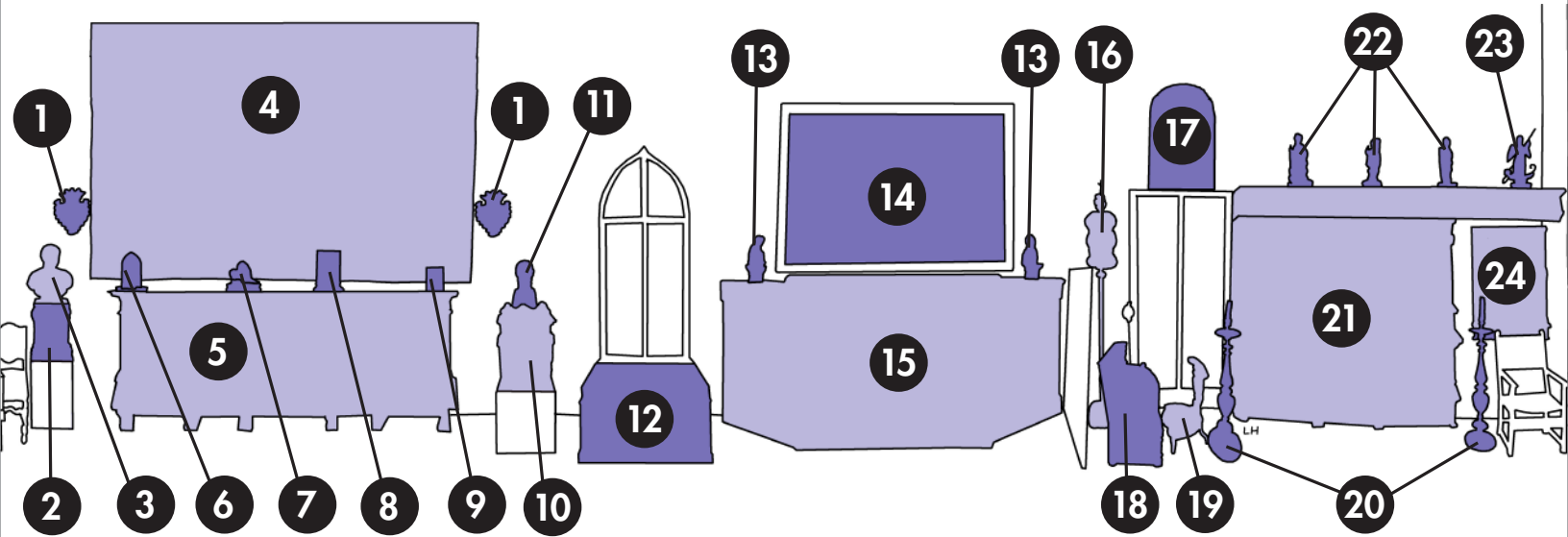
22. Cinerarium (container for ashes). Roman, 1st century. Marble

23. Head. Roman, in the style of about 150. Marble

24. God Shows Noah a Rainbow Tapestry. Flemish, 1650–75. Wool and silk

25. Standing Bishop on an Arcade. Spanish, early 15th century. Alabaster

26. Sacristy Bench. Italian, 17th century. Walnut



1. Candle Bracket. Italian, 17th century.
Wood

2. Cinerarium (container for ashes).
Roman, 1st century. Marble

3. Head. Roman, in the style of 150. Marble

4. God Shows Noah a Rainbow Tapestry.
Flemish, 1650–75. Wool and silk

5. Sacristy Bench. Italian, 17th century.
Walnut

Four reliefs above bench:

6. Standing Bishop on an Arcade. Spanish,
early 15th century. Alabaster

7. Virgin and Child, about 1480. Workshop
of Antonio Rossellino (Italian, 1427–78).
Painted stucco

8. Man of Sorrows. Italian (Umbria), 16th
century. Terracotta

9. Saint Lawrence. Italian, 15th century.
Limestone

10. Cinerarium (container for ashes).
Roman, 1st–2nd century. Marble

11. Bust of a Man. Roman, 2nd century.
Marble

**12. Case with British (including Mary
Queen of Scots) memorabilia**

**13. Two figures: The Virgin and Angel
Gabriel,** about 1500. Giovanni Antonio
Pilacorte (Italian, 1455–1531). Limestone

**14. Virgin and Child Enthroned with
Saints,** 1307. Guiliano da Rimini (Italian, ac-
tive 1307–1346). Tempera on wood

**15. Case with Dante editions and other
Italian manuscripts**

16. Lantern. Italian (Venice), 17th–18th cen-
tury. Copper with quartz panes

**17. Virgin and Child with a King and
Bishop.** German, mid-17th century. Painted
and gilded wood

18. Stall. French (?), 19th century. Oak

19. Church Chair. Italian, 18th century.
Wood

20. Candlesticks. Italian, 17th century. Brass

21. Choir Stalls. Italian, 15th century. Wood

22. Saints. French, 19th century. Wood

23. Saint Michael. German, about 1550.
Wood

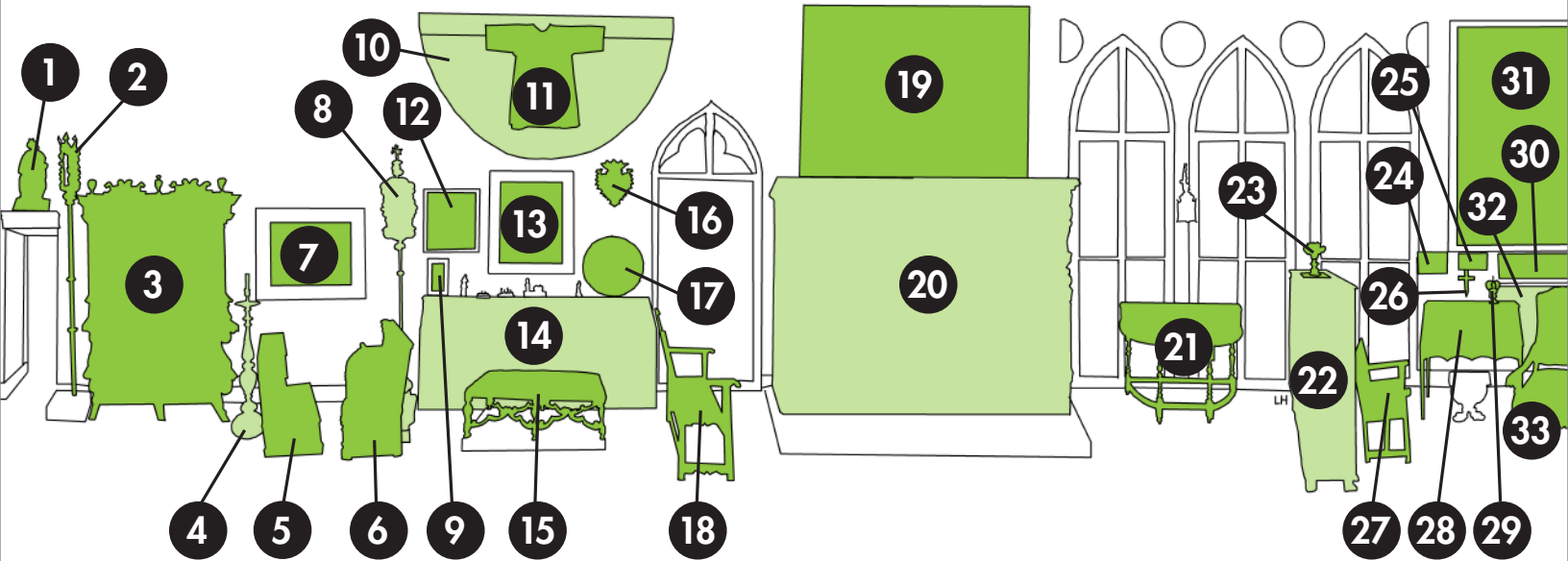
24. Saint Jerome. German, about 1500–10.
Linden wood



34

LONG GALLERY • WEST WALL, LEFT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE ON REVERSE >



1. St. Margaret. German, about 1520–30. Painted and gilded pine

2. Lantern. Italian, 15th century (?) with modern additions. Wood.

Inside: Painted and gilded wood statuette of St. Nicholas (?), German, 16th century

3. Stalls. Italian, 17th century. Walnut

4. Candlestick. Italian, 17th century. Brass

5. Prie-dieu (prayer desk). Italian, 17th century. Walnut with mother-of-pearl inlay

6. Stall. French(?), 19th century. Oak.

7. The Wedding Feast at Cana. Italian, 16th century. Workshop of Tintoretto. Oil on canvas

8. Lantern. Italian (Venice), copper with quartz panes

9. A Spanish Madonna, 1879–95. John S. Sargent (American, 1856–1925). Oil on wood

10. Cope. Italian, 15th or 16th century. Velvet with embroidery

11. Dalmatic. Italian, 1450–1500. Velvet

12. Embroidered Motif. Italian, 1550–1600. Satin

13. Frame. Italian (Venice), probably 17th century. Wood. *Inside the frame:* Velvet, Italian or Spanish, 1600–25

14. Case with actors and authors memorabilia

15. Bench. Italian, 18th century. Wood

16. Candle Bracket. Italian, 17th century. Painted and gilded wood

17. Virgin and Child. Italian, 15th century. Workshop of Benedetto da Maiano. Terracotta

18. Armchair. Spanish, 18th century. Wood

19. Melintus and Ariane Fleeing from Rome Tapestry. Flemish, 1675–1710. Wool and silk

20. Choir Stall. Italian, 15th century with 16th century intarsia work. Wood

21. Case containing artists memorabilia

22. Bookcase containing rare editions of French and Italian literature

23. Crowned Head. Burgundy, about 1400. Limestone

24. Saints Jerome, Mary Magdalen, and Francis, late 14th–early 15th century. Studio of Paolo di Giovanni Fei (?) Tempera on wood

25. The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew, Italian, early 15th century. Tempera on wood

26. Crucifix. French or German, mid-1100s. Copper alloy

27. Armchair. Spanish, 16th century. Wood

28. Desk-case containing three Limoges enamel plaques and other devotional objects. French, 15th–16th century

29. Virgin's Crown. Spanish (from Colombia), 19th century. Brass

30. Mantlepiece Frieze. Burgundy, early 16th century. Wood

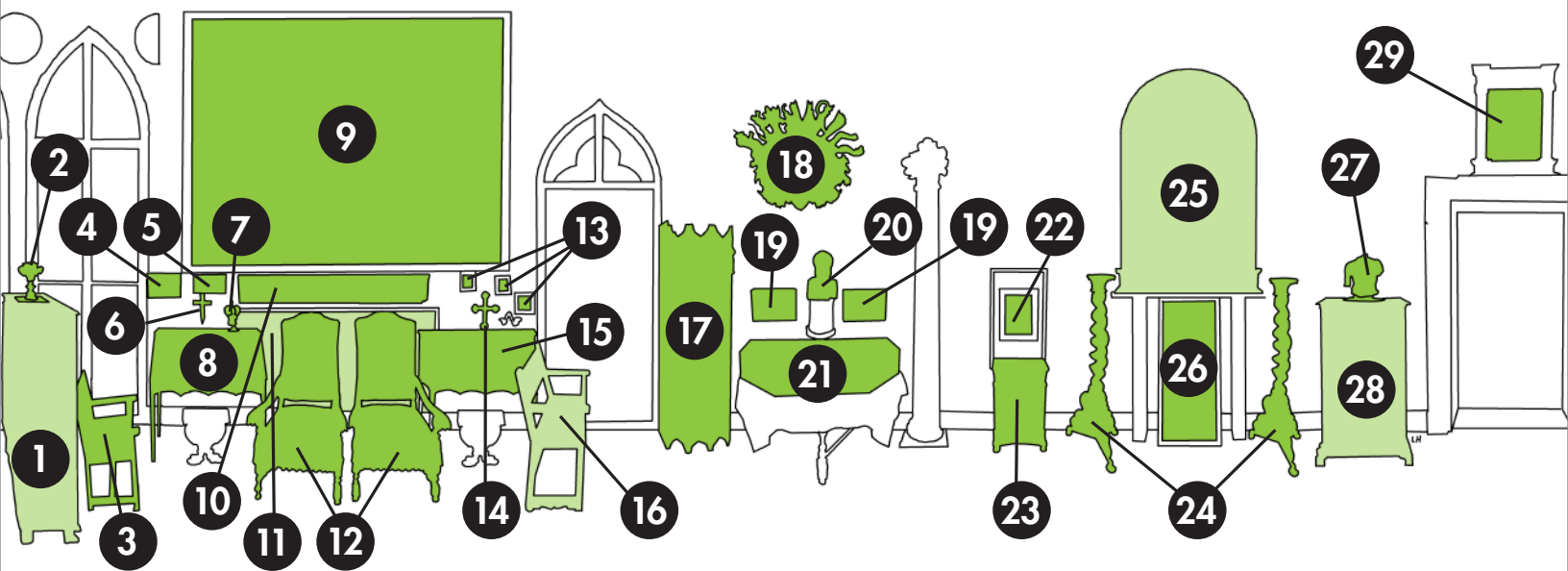
31. Copes (two). Italian, 1475–1525. Velvet

32. Bed Cover Fragments. Greek, 18th–19th century. Linen embroidered in silk

33. Armchair. Italian, early 18th century. Wood

LONG GALLERY • WEST WALL, RIGHT SIDE

LEFT SIDE ON REVERSE >



1. Bookcase containing rare editions of French and Italian literature

2. Crowned Head. Burgundy, about 1400. Limestone

3. Armchair. Spanish, 16th century. Wood

4. Saints Jerome, Mary Magdalen, and Francis, late 14th-early 15th century. Studio of Paolo di Giovanni Fei (?). Tempera on wood

5. The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew, Italian, early 15th century. Tempera on wood

6. Crucifix. French or German, mid-1100s. Copper alloy

7. Virgin's Crown. Spanish (from Colombia), 19th century. Brass

8. Desk-case containing 3 Limoges enamel plaques and other devotional objects. French, 15th–16th century

9. Copes. Italian, 1475–1525. Velvet

10. Mantlepiece Frieze. Burgundy, early 16th century. Wood

11. Bed Cover Fragments. Greek, 18th–19th century. Linen embroidered in silk

12. Armchairs. Italian, early 18th century. Wood

13. Historiated Initials of Saints Martin, Lawrence, and Michael from illuminated choir books. Italian, 14th century. Paint on vellum

14. Crucifix. French, 13th–14th century. Gilt metal

15. Small case containing miniatures and books

16. Armchair. Spanish, 18th century. Wood

17. Small case of medieval metalwork from Italy, France, and Germany

18. Escutcheon (coat of arms). German, 17th century. Painted wood

19. Ink Drawing of Europa (provenance unknown)

20. Herm of Greek Scholar. Roman copy of a work from about 320–280 BCE. Marble

21. Case with royal autographs

22. A Young Woman of Fashion, early 1460s. Attributed to Paolo Uccello (Italian, 1397–1475). Oil on wood

23. Chest of Drawers. Italian, 18th century. Pine with walnut and mahogany veneer

24. Torchères. Italian (Venice), 18th century. Iron


25. Lamentation of Christ, 1515. Giovanni della Robbia (Italian, 1469–1529). Glazed terracotta

26. Textile. Italian, 1475–1525. Velvet with gilt yarn

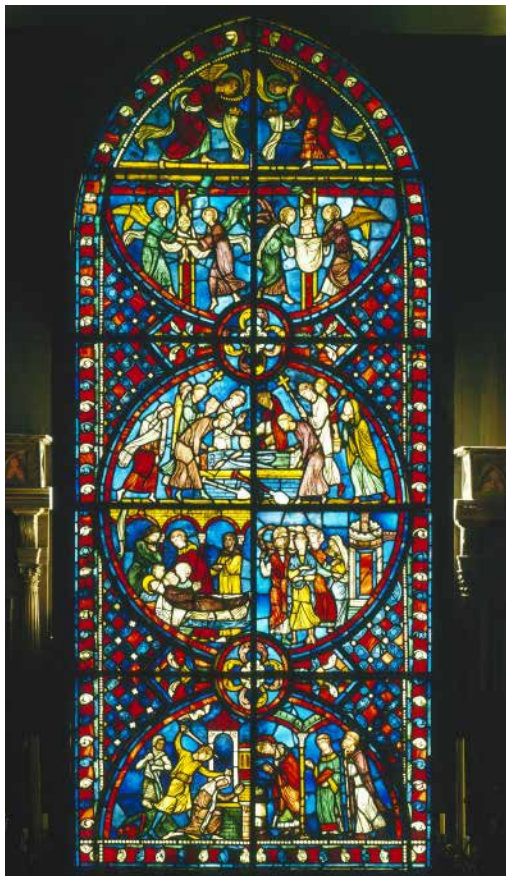
27. Torso. Graeco-Roman, 1st century. Marble

28. Cupboard. Italian, 16th century. Walnut

29. Textile. Italian, early 17th century. Velvet

302  Don't assume that this gallery is just a corridor that leads from one place to another—it's full of hidden surprises. In tall curtained cases you'll find the ornately bound books that first sparked Isabella Gardner's passion for collecting. Lifting the cloth coverings of the low cases will reveal letters and memorabilia that reflect her interest in historical celebrities, from the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots (1542–1587) to the popular Victorian poet Robert Browning (1812–1889)—and many more presidents, politicians, writers, painters, and actors in between.

The two ends of the gallery showcase the artistic innovations of the later middle ages and the Italian renaissance, featuring stained glass from a French Gothic cathedral at one end and Florentine oil paintings and terracotta sculpture at the other. This installation shows how changes in art can mark the passage of time, and also serves as a reminder of how much art has been created in the service of religion.



Window: Scenes from the Lives of Saint Nicasius and Saint Eutropia

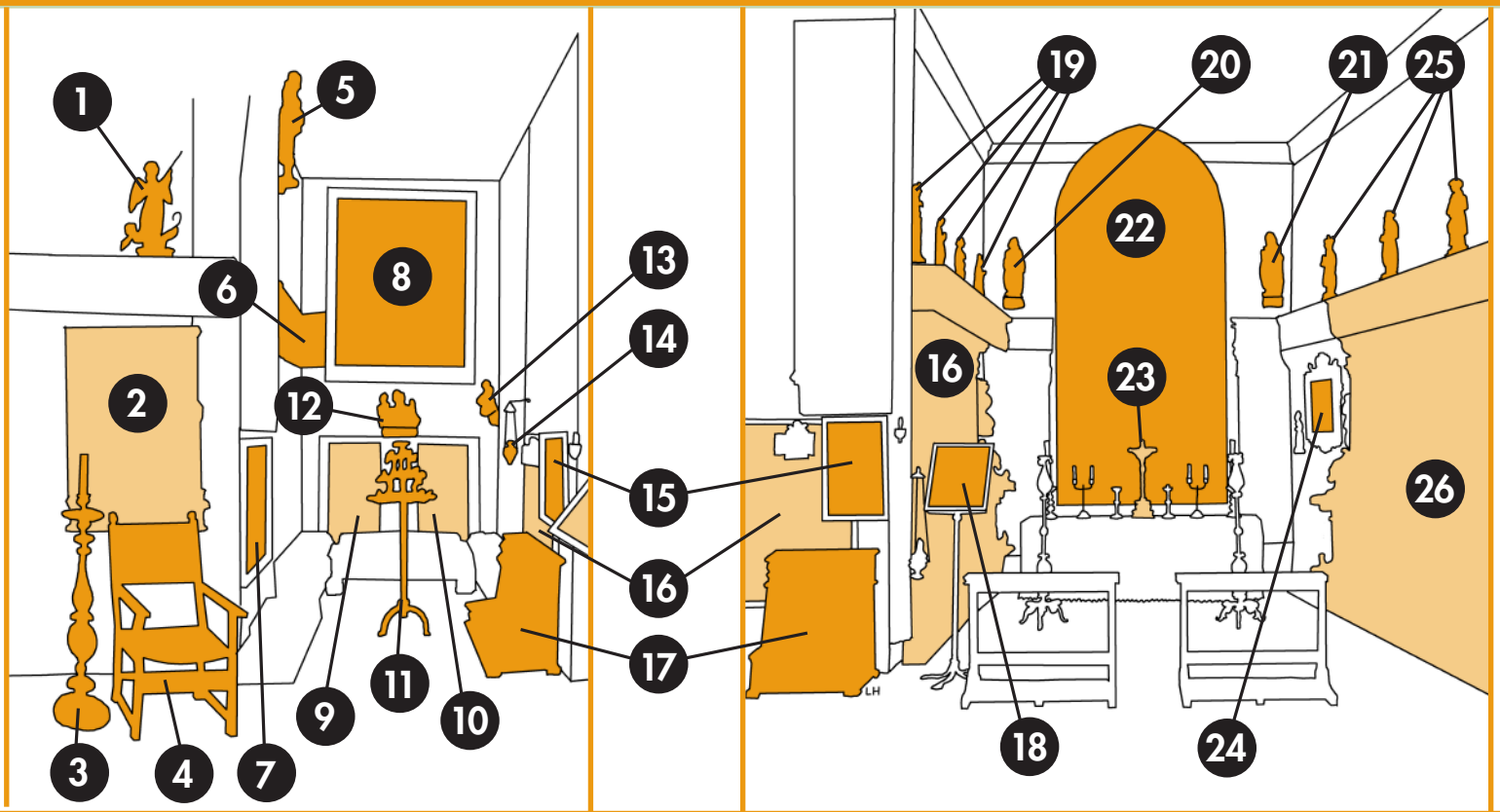
French (Soissons), about 1205
Stained glass

 35

This window was made for Soissons Cathedral, the earliest of the great High Gothic cathedrals. Many of the windows were taken to Paris for restoration in the late 1800s and then sold; Gardner purchased this piece of a window in 1905 (the rest of the window was bought by the Louvre). The window narrates the story of two locally important saints—Nicasius, archbishop of Reims, and his sister Eutropia—who were martyred in 403. Look for the entombment of Nicasius in the center of the window: two figures carrying crosses flank the saint's body, while shovels used to dig the grave appear at the bottom.

In Gardner's lifetime she used this space as her personal chapel, and in her will stipulated that a service be held here annually on her birthday, April 14.

LONG GALLERY • SOUTH END



1. Saint Michael. German, about 1600. Painted wood

2. Saint Jerome. German, about 1500–10. Linden wood

3. Candlestick. Italian, 17th century. Brass

4. Armchair. Spanish, 18th century. Wood

5. Angel. Italian or Austrian, 18th century. Painted wood

6. Nativity. German, about 1520. Painted and gilded wood flanked by painted angels

7. A Procession. German, 17th or 18th century. Oil on wood

8. The Interior of the Abbey Church of Saint Denis, about 1891. Paul-César Helleu (French, 1859–1927). Oil on canvas

9. Window: Ruth and Boaz. Italian, about 1545. Stained glass

10. Window: The Judgement of Solomon. Italian, about 1545. Stained glass

11. Candelabrum. Italian, 15th century. Iron

12. Lamentation. Netherlandish, about 1500. Painted oak

13. Kneeling Virgin. French, late 16th century. Painted wood

14. Sacristy Lamp. Italian (Venice), 17th century. Silver

15. The Annunciation. German, late 15th century. Oil on wood

16. Textile. French or Italian, about 1700. Velvet

17. Prie-dieu (prayer desk). Italian, 17th century. Walnut

18. Leaf from a Choir Book. Italian, 15th century. Ink on vellum

19. Saints. German, 15th century. Painted wood

20. Saint John. German, about 1500. Painted wood

21. Female Saint. German, about 1500. Painted wood

22. Window: Scenes from the Lives of Saint Nicasius and Saint Eutropia. French (Soissons), about 1205. Stained glass

23. Crucifix, about 1600. Francesco Terilli (Italian, active 1596–1633). Ivory on a wood cross and base

24. Saint Filippo Neri, Italian, late 16th–17th century. Oil on canvas

25. Saints (three). German, about 1510–20. Painted and gilded wood

26. Choir Stalls. Italian, 16th century. Walnut



35