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Sandro Botticelli
Italian (Florence), 1444/5–1510

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

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?
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
5. Helmet. North Indian, 17th or 18th century. Metal
6. Fragment of Mosque Lamp. Syrian or Egyptian, mid-14th century. Glass
8. Virgin and Child with an Angel, early 1470s. Sandro Botticelli (Italian, 1444/45–1510). Tempera and oil on wood
11. Plate. Italian (Venice), 16th century. Brass inlaid with silver
17. The Nativity, about 1482–85. Follower of Sandro Botticelli(?). Tempera on wood
18. Armchair. Italian (Venice), mid-18th century. Walnut
20. Candlestick. Spanish or Italian, 19th century. Wood
22. Garment Fabric. Turkish, 17th century. Velvet
1. **Canopy and Dossal.** Italian, 16th century. Velvet


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


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


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. **Sacristry 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
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*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

15. **Case with Dante editions and other Italian manuscripts**
16. **Lantern.** Italian (Venice), 17th–18th century. 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
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
5. Prie-dieu (prayer desk). Italian, 17th century. Walnut with mother-of-pearl inlay
7. The Wedding Feast at Cana. Italian, 16th century. Workshop of Tintoretto. Oil on canvas
8. Lantern. Italian (Venice), copper with quartz panes
10. Cope. Italian, 15th or 16th century. Velvet with embroidery
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
18. Armchair. Spanish, 18th century. Wood
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
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
32. Bed Cover Fragments. Greek, 18th-19th century. Linen embroidered in silk
33. Armchair. Italian, early 18th century. Wood
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
8. Desk-case containing 3 Limoges enamel plaques and other devotional objects. French, 15th–16th century
11. Bed Cover Fragments. Greek, 18th-19th century. Linen embroidered in silk
13. Historiated Initials of Saints Martin, Lawrence, and Michael from illuminated choir books. Italian, 14th century. Paint on vellum
15. Small case containing miniatures and books
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
24. Torchères. Italian (Venice), 18th century. Iron
27. Torso. Graeco-Roman, 1st century. Marble
28. Cupboard. Italian, 16th century. Walnut
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Window: Scenes from the Lives of Saint Nicasius and Saint Eutropia
French (Soissons), about 1205
Stained glass

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.
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