

MEDIEVAL ART

A Resource for Educators

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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Plaque with John the Evangelist (image 6)

Foreword

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and Chief Executive Officer

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Medieval Art and The Cloisters

SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS of art, history, and literature have long identified the centuries between the decline of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance as The Middle Ages. These were times of extraordinary artistic accomplishment—in architecture, manuscript illumination, sculpture, tapestry, stained glass, arms and armor, and work in every medium. The Metropolitan Museum is fortunate indeed to house one of the world's richest collections of medieval art. In fact, we have two collections: at the Main Building on Fifth Avenue, and at The Cloisters, our extraordinary specialized branch museum—much of it constructed from authentic medieval structures—situated high above the Hudson River in northern Manhattan. The Cloisters also enjoys the distinction of having medieval-style gardens harmoniously integrated into its fabric.

This publication celebrates and explains medieval art in all its forms. Its goal is to present reliable and useful information and materials for teachers and students—background, descriptive narratives, teaching strategies, lesson plans, activities, bibliographies, slides, a CD-ROM—so that the wonder of medieval art can be part of teaching and learning in many disciplines. Of course, we urge you to visit the collection in both locations because there can be no adequate substitute for experiencing the art itself.

The collections of medieval art in the Metropolitan and The Cloisters are here because of the generosity of generations of public-spirited citizens. J. Pierpont Morgan built the foundations of the collection a century ago, and it was John D. Rockefeller, Jr. who envisioned The Cloisters as a unique environment for the art of the Middle Ages. As the collection has grown, so also has its importance for students and educators in New York City and across the country. It is therefore with special gratitude that we thank Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose for the support that made possible this publication. Whether consulted in printed or electronic form (at www.metmuseum.org), *Medieval Art: A Resource for Educators*, distills generations of scholarship and teaching expertise for the benefit of educators and students of this amazing era.

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Medieval Art: A Resource for Educators

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