

Jean Pichore (Paris, fl. c. 1500-1520)

Dives and Lazarus (leaf, 167 x 117 mm.; miniature 154 x 94 mm.)

France, probably Paris, c. 1510

This miniature depicts the well-known parable of the rich man and the leprous beggar (Luke 16: 19-30). Richly dressed Dives and his splendidly attired lady eat at a table draped with fine linen and decked out with expensive silver. Engaged in animated conversation, they do not notice the approach of the lowly beggar Lazarus at the doorway, who attracts the attention of barking dogs. The circular room contains a large gold money chest, underlining the greed of Dives. The bottom of the leaf foretells the fate of the rich man, who spurned the needs of the poor beggar. A demon snarls at the naked body of Dives, who languishes in hell. An iron collar around his neck is attached to a pole held by a monkey, while two other hideous animals look on gleefully against a backdrop of crackling hellfire.

Jean Pichore was responsible for this miniature. Active in Paris, although Cardinal Georges d'Amboise, archbishop of Rouen, was one of his major clients, Pichore is documented as having worked on two manuscripts: a volume of Augustine's *De civitate Dei* of c. 1501/03 (Paris, BnF, MS lat. 2070) and a copy of the *Chants royaux* for Louise of Savoy of 1517 (Paris, BnF, MS fr. 145). He managed a large family enterprise that was responsible for the illumination of a great number of classical, secular, and theological texts. He also played an important role in the market for printed books by providing Parisian stationers with Renaissance designs for publication in their Books of Hours. Elegant figures, a rich palette, and an attention to modeling characterize this work.

The manuscript from which this leaf comes belonged to John Boykett Jarman (d. 1864), whose library was damaged in a freak flood on August 1, 1846, and many of his books were subsequently repaired by Caleb Wing (Backhouse, 1968, pp. 76-92). Quite a few leaves are known from this Book of Hours in collections throughout the world, from the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana, to the Dunedin Public Library in New Zealand. For the most complete list of the extant leaves, see De Hamel (in Manion, 1989, no. 98, pp. 103-104). The present miniature seems to have escaped "restoration."

Provenance: John Boykett Jarman (d. 1864), his sale, in London, Sotheby's 13 June 1864, lot 30; then described in Maggs, where it was still intact, Cat. 404, no. 54; the present leaf identifiable in Maggs, Cat. 437, no. 1144.

Literature: Backhouse, 1968; Manion, et al., 1989, pp. 103-104.