Information posted with paintings

The Adoration of the Magi, ca. 1400-10 Egg tempera on wood panel Master of the Straus Madonna Italian, Florence, active late 13th-14th centuries Samuel H. Kress Collection, 61.161

This picture was part of a devotional diptych; the second panel was a Nativity, now in a private collection.

The Annunciation, ca. 1440 Egg tempera on wood Giovanni di Ser Giovanni Guidi Italian, Florence, 1406–86 Samuel H. Kress Collection, 61.159

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will give birth to Jesus, the son of God.

Also known as "Lo Scheggia," Guidi painted small devotional paintings and decorations for furniture and boxes for some of Florence's wealthiest families, including the Medici. X-rays have shown that these two panels were once set on either side of a central panel to form a small devotional altarpiece.

Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist, 1505-10 Oil on wood Marco d'Oggiono Italian, Milan, ca. 1467-1524 Samuel H. Kress Collection, 37.57 Christ before Pilate, early 16th century Oil on wood panel German (Cologne) Gift of Millard Sheets, 62.196

After his arrest, Christ was led before the governor Pontius Pilate, who had the power to order his release. Instead, the Roman ruler literally washed his hands of the matter and passively condemned Jesus to his fate. In the background we see a stripped and beaten Christ shown to the people, who call for his death. The tight framing, common during this period, focuses attention on Jesus' suffering and the grotesque faces of his tormentors.

The Flagellation, ca. 1360 Egg tempera on wood **Dalmasio Scannabecchi** Italian, Bologna, before ca. 1320-1373

Samuel H. Kress Collection, 61.147

In the hours prior to his crucifixion, Jesus was cruelly mocked before the public and savagely persecuted to extremes. This image of unjust cruelty and physical suffering powerfully affected some of the painting's original viewers, who attacked the panel, scratching the legs of Christ's assailants and gouging out their eyes.