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Guide to the Collections: Medieval Art (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Metropolitan Museum of Art

Forgotten Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Guide to the Collections: Medieval Art This persistence of established practice, as well as its adaptation to Christian purposes, is graphically shown in a marble relief (1) from a 4th-century sarcophagus. Here a bearded youth in a toga, who might be a pagan shepherd from a Roman pastoral scene save for the authority of his presence and his gestures, is depicted separating the sheep from the goats, symbolizing the Christian subject of the Last Judgment. Several centuries were to pass before the image of Christ assumed the form that has become traditional in Christian art. Purely ornamental devices of Roman art were also given symbolic meaning by early Christian artists. Grapes and vines, such as we saw on the vase recently mentioned, twine in a decorative spiral pattern about two marble columns from Notre Dame de La Daurade, in Toulouse, one of the earliest Christian churches in Gaul (it was standing at least as early as the 5th century) and one of the most magnificent built north of the Alps before the time of Charlemagne. In a marble...


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