

Raphael Designed Wooden Shutters

Artist: Fra Giovanni da Verona and Giovanni Barili, made from the original designs of Raphael
Date: early XVI century
Dimensions: 300 cm x 60 cm
Materials: Wood
Inventory Numbers: 51508.4.1, 51508.4.2, 51508.4.3, 51508.4.4

STATE OF PRESERVATION

The wooden doors and shutters are damaged and dehydrated from the sunlight which has caused partial warping of the structural panels creating cracks. The inlays have also become detached and withdrawn from the carved panels as well as total oxidation of the surface of varnish on the front of the panels. On the back the iron hinges and nails are loosening. We foresee the project will require 18 months of labor for one wood restorer.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Removal and replacement of the iron hinges of the works from the back of the panels
- Carpentry intervention to close the cracks in the structure
- Restoration of the missing inlays and eventual removal with the reinsertion of the existing inlays
- Consolidation and grouting of the back of the panels with a method developed by our laboratories during previous restorations
- Cleaning of the carvings and inlays on the front of the panels and cleaning of the backsides
- Polish and finish that will be performed in the tone adopted by the restoration on the panels in the Stanza di Eliodoro
- Development of a periodic maintenance program from scientific research and study

Total Cost € 45.000,00



■ The name "Raphael Rooms" refers to the private apartment of Julius II della Rovere (1503-1513) situated on the second floor of the Apostolic Palace adorned with frescoes by Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520) and his collaborators. This room, belonging to the palace built by Nicholas V (1447-1455), was restructured and redecorated in 1508. The work continued during the following pontificate, particularly during the time of Leo X (Medici 1513-1521), ending in 1524. In addition to the splendid frescoes decorating the walls, the apartment also houses precious wooden window shutters. These shutters were likely commissioned by Julius II but crafted in large part during the time of Leo X by master carvers Fra Giovanni da Verona and Giovanni Barili, made from the original designs of Raphael. As recounted by Vasari in *Le Vite* and as attested by the documents of the time, Fra Giovanni da Verona was tasked to make the wood cabinets in the library of the Pope, the current *Stanze della Segnatura* which have since been lost. Yet we still have the extraordinary carpentry works of the 1500s: the finely inlaid and richly carved doors and window shutters of the Raphael Rooms; the precious coffered ceilings with the coat of arms of the Medicis in the *Sala dei Chiaroscuri* as well as in the *Sala Vecchia degli Svizzeri*.

The Medici crests on the window shutters in the *Stanze dell'Incendio*, della *Segnatura* and di *Eliodoro*, allow us to attribute them to Leo X. The successive work of cabinets in the *Sala di Constantino*, the final room of the Raphael Rooms dating to the pontificate of Clement VII Medici (1523-1534) (the door that opens to the loggias) and his successor Paul III Farnese (1534-1549) (the shutters on two windows), were created by other master carvers inspired by similar works in the pontifical apartment. The shutters in the *Sala di Constantino* are the subject of the restoration.

For many years, the Vatican Museums has led a careful conservation program to preserve the precious wood-carved panels that adorn the Raphael Rooms. Such work is always given to highly specialized restorers from the moment the complex intervention and conservation begin. After performing pest control on the wood, the restoration of the doors and window shutters requires a detailed cleaning of the carvings and inlays. This effort requires the removal of old varnish and previous restorations that altered the appearance over the course of time in order to discover the hue of the original varnish. Lastly, the surface of the wood will be polished with wax in the traditional 16th century method.

Due to the fragility of the wood and the sensitivity to light and natural climate changes, there is a need to intervene on the doors restored several years ago.

Part of your donation will go to fund a necessary program of periodic maintenance for the window shutters along with the restoration. Such interventions allow the Vatican Museums to better protect the wooden carvings according to more updated methods, avoiding more complex, long and costly interventions that will be inevitable with the passing of time.



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