BLUMKA



Enthroned Virgin and Child

France (probably Île-de-France or north of that region) *First half of the 14th century* Limestone with original polychromy 26 x 10 x 9 in. (57.2 x 26 x 23.3 cm)

Provenance:

Collection Delannoy, Paris Collection Georg Schwarz, Berlin Collection Hugo Benario, Berlin Leopold Blumka

Literature:

Die Sammlung Georg Schwarz: Bildwerke der Antike und der christlichen Epochen in Holz, Stein, Ton und Bronze: Exhibition 20 - 23 May 1917. Berlin: Cassier-Helbing, 1917, cat. no. 102

Volbach, Wolfgang Friedrich. Die mittelalterlichen Bildwerke der Sammlung Benario. Berlin: Verlag fur Kunstwissenschaft, 1923, cat. no. 6, plate IV

Sammlung Hugo Benario. Rudolph Lepke's Kunst Auctions Haus, Berlin, 1976, cat. no. 81, plate 3

Comparative literature:

Vitry, Paul and Brière, Gaston. Documents de Sculpture Française du Moyen Age. D. A. Longuet, Paris, 1904-1913

Forsyth, William H. "The Virgin and Child in French Fourteenth-Century Sculpture: A Method of Classification" in The Art Bulletin, Vol. 39, No. 3 (September 1957), pp 171-182

Little, Charles T. Set in Stone: The Face in Medieval Sculpture. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2006

Seasonwein, Joanna. The Nursing Queen: Sculptures of the Virgo Lactans in Late Medieval France, PhD Dissertation, Columbia University, New York, 2010

The Virgin Mary, with a peaceful and loving facial expression, is seated on a cushion that rests on a marbleized cuboid pedestal. She is wearing a modest crown decorated with painted gems and round spires, a belted gown, a long mantel and pointed shoes. With her left arm she cradles the Christ Child sitting on her left knee, while proffering him her breast with her right hand. Christ's right arm is not depicted, nor is his right foot, though

his left foot juts out from under his robe onto the Virgin's lap. His left hand rests on the Virgin's right hand.

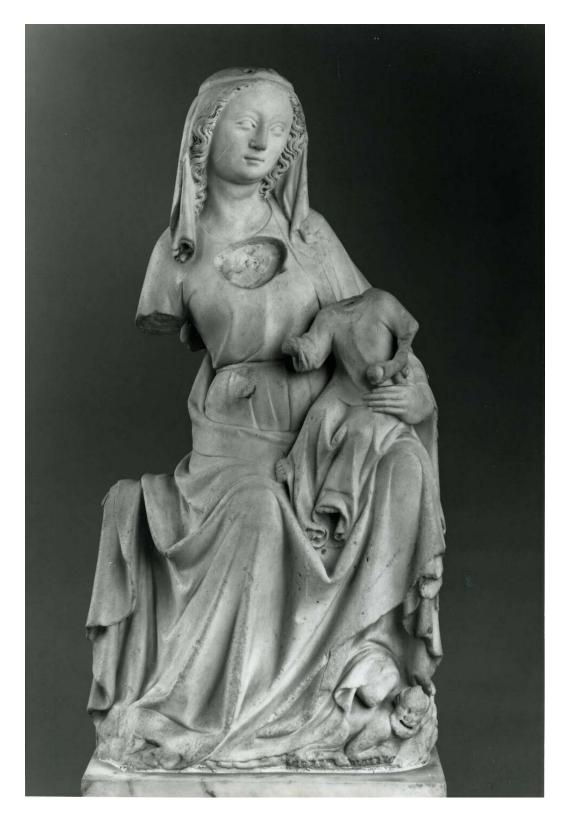
Remains of gilding can be found on the hair of the two figures as well as on the Virgin's crown and, selectively, throughout the garments of both (i.e., along the trim and sleeves, the Virgin's belt and around the dark, diamond-shaped decorations of the Virgin's robes). Areas of red polychromy remain in the folds of the Virgin's veil and mantle, on the interior folds of the garments of both figures and on decorative details of the Virgin's crown. The marbleized pedestal is painted red, green and yellow in what appears to have been a wet-on-wet application. There is also black polychromy on small, selective areas that appear to serve mainly as embellishments and outlines for gilding on the crown and in the trim of the garments.

This excellently preserved sculpture is a supreme example of *Maria Lactans* (Nursing Madonna) iconography as could already be found in both ninth and tenth-century Coptic art as well as later in Byzantine painting and sculpture. However, it gained much wider popularity in twelfth-century medieval Europe during the period's movement towards realism and humanism. The iconography continued to be actively used in painting and sculpture into the Renaissance. The great variety of Virgin and Child statues produced in 14th century France as well as the popularity of the Maria Lactans theme make it hard to precisely localize this particular sculpture. Based on William H. Forsyth's article, as well as the book by Dr. Charles T. Little, Curator Emeritus of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, The Metropolitan Museum of Art (see the comparative literature) it is presumed that our Enthroned Virgin and Child comes either from near Île-de-France or north of that region. The Virgin's physiognomy parallels the sculpture of The Seated Virgin Carrying the Child from The Louvre, Paris, inv. no. RF 2624. Furthermore, there are similarities in the drapery to the Virgin and Child sculpture from the collection Bossy, at The Louvre, Paris, inv. no. RF 1369 (Vitry and Brière, PI. LXXXXV, no. 7) and the Standing Madonna and Child sculpture from the Collection Timbal in Stein, also at The Louvre, Paris, inv. no. RF 579 (Vitry and Brière, PI. LXXXXIV, no. 5). All of these comparative sculptures are from the Île-de-France region.









To compare: The Seated Virgin Carrying the Child 1300-1350 (first half of the 14th century), Île-de-France The Louvre, Paris, inv. no. RF 2624



To compare: Standing Madonna and Child from the Collection Timbal in Stein Louvre, Paris, inv. no. RF 579 First half of the 14th century, Île-de-France (Vitry and Brière, PI. LXXXXIV, no. 5)



To compare: Virgin and Child from the collection Bossy The Louvre, Paris, inv.no. RF 1369 Circa 1300-1325, Île-de-France (Vitry and Brière, PI. LXXXXV, no. 7)

SAMMLUNG GEORG SCHWARZ BILDWERKE DER ANTIKE UND DER CHRISTLICHEN

EPOCHEN IN HOLZ, STEIN, TON UND BRONZE

AUSSTELLUNG VOM 20. BIS 23. MAI 1917, VON 10-2 UHR

VERSTEIGERUNG DONNERSTAG, DEN 24. MAI UM 1/211 UHR

IN DEN VER STEIGERUNGSRÄUMEN BERLIN W15, KURFÜRSTENDAMM 208/209

UNTER DER LEITUNG DER UNTERZEICHNETEN

PAUL CASSIRER BERLIN HUGO HELBING MÜNCHEN



Catalog entry from Die Sammlung Georg Schwarz: Bildwerke der Antike und der christlichen Epochen in Holz, Stein, Ton und Bronze: Ausstelllung vom 20. bis 23. Mai 1917. Berlin: Cassier-Helbing, 1917 (catalog no. 102)

K U N S T W E R K E AUS DEUTSCHEM PRIVATBESITZ

Herausgegeben von W. F. Volbach

DIE MITTELALTERLICHEN BILDWERKE DER SAMMLUNG BENARIO

BEARBEITET VON W. F. VOLBACH



BAND II: DIE MITTELALTERLICHEN BILDWERKE DER SAMMLUNG BENARIO

BERLIN 1923 VERLAG FÜR KUNSTWISSENSCHAFT

TAFEL IV

FRANZÖSISCHE ARBEITEN

Französisch. 2. Hälfte 12. Jahrhundert Sandstein. Vollrund. Rückseite

Holz, ben Die Rüch

Rundplastisch. Alte Bemalung. rken der entwickelten Kathedralpl

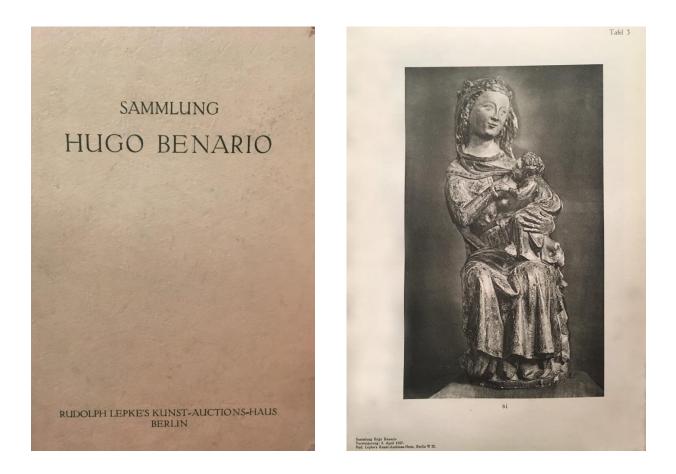
ter Bemalung. Rückseite unbearbeitet. y, Paris, dann G. Schwarz, Berlin. Ver ng 1917. Maria aus der Sammlung Bossy, jetzt Paris, Louvre (Vitry et Brière, 7) und die stehende ebendort aus der Sammlung Timbal in Stein Taf LXXXIV. 5).

sch. Mitte 14. Jai

crassosses. Attite 14. Jahrhundert EFUNG UND LEGNIDENEZZAHLUNG (Tesfelssestreibung). Eichenholt. 6. Also Benalaug. H. 44 cm. Br. 35.3 cm. Jeiche die Relief von Paris, Neber Dame, ställicher Querchäf (Marcon, Album du .IV. Ta. 1 25. ferrer Vity et finiere a. a. O., Taf. 92. Wohl von einem Sakristeischzenk. A bählaug Tahl



Catalog entry from Die mittelalterlichen Bildwerke der Sammlung Benario. Wolfgang Friedrich Volbach. Berlin: Verlag fur Kunstwissenschaft, 1923 (catalog no. 6, ill. 4)



MARIA. Kalkstein mit alter Bemalung. Rückseite unbearbeitet. Französisch, 1. Hälfte 14. Jahrhundert. Volbach Kat. Benario Nr. 6, Taf. IV. Aus der Sammlung Delaunay, Paris, dann G. Schwarz, Berlin. Verst. Cassirer-Helbing 1917, Nr. 102. Aehnlich die sitzende Maria aus der Sammlung Bossy, jetzt Paris, Louvre (Vitry et Brière, a. a. O. Taf. LXXXX, 7), und die stehende ebendort aus der Sammlung Timbal in Stein (Vitry et Brière, a. a. O. LXXXXIV, 5). H. 57 cm. Abb. Taf. 3.

Catalog entry from Sammlung Hugo Benario. Berlin: Rudolph Lepke's Kunst Auctions Haus, 1976 (catalog no. 81, table 3)