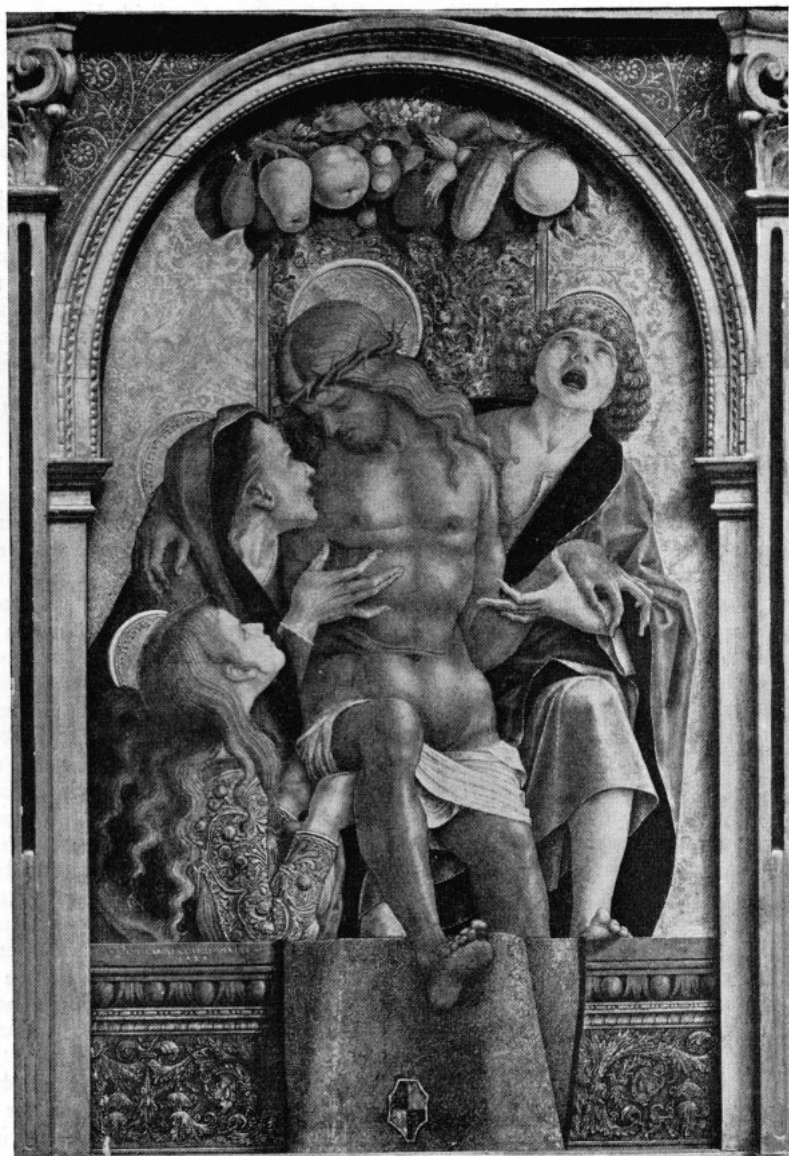


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Secretary

Gift of Dudley Leavitt Pickman

American, ca. 1790

An American Secretary

IMPORTANT examples of early American furniture are added from time to time to the permanent collections of the Museum and the recent gift by Dudley Leavitt Pickman of a secretary helps toward a more complete exhibition of American decorative arts of the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

This fine piece in mahogany, dating from about the year 1790, is illustrative of the work of early American craftsmen who were guided by English designers—Hepplewhite and Sheraton in this instance—but who, nevertheless, worked freely in an accepted style and made the results their own.

The rectangular body containing three drawers is framed into four square posts which form legs for one-third of their height. There are three drawers with beaded edges and lines of satinwood inlay. The faces of the posts, at the front, are inlaid with lines, scrollwork and lozenge patterns. Cross-bandings of inlay are also used on the legs and in other parts of the piece. A hinged writing leaf, faced with green baize, rests on sliding supports when in use. The upper part or cabinet of the secretary has an unusual curved front containing

tambour doors. These reeded panels of wood mounted on flexible canvas are made to disappear in curved tracks by a lateral pull of the hand. The interior of the cabinet contains nicely fitted drawers and filing compartments. This secretary, in excellent condition, original in all its parts and of fine workmanship, well represents the best of its kind and period.

EDWIN J. HIPKISS.

Egyptian Wall Paintings

THROUGH the courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art the Museum has been enabled to hold a special exhibition of copies of Theban wall paintings of the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties executed by Mr. and Mrs. Norman de Garis Davies and their assistants. This exhibition, which was held in the Renaissance Court from February 18 to March 16, gave our public an opportunity to see representations of a branch of Egyptian graphic art but rarely found in Museum galleries, and the Museum of Fine Arts and its public cannot but be most grateful to the Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum for making possible the loan of this interesting and instructive group of paintings.