

MARIOTTO DI NARDO

Florentine school, recorded 1394 - 1424.

Son of a stone-cutter called Nardo, and according to Vasari grandson of the painter Andrea Orcagna, he did his earliest recorded work in 1394-95, the altarpiece for the church of <sup>S. a.</sup> S. Donnino in Villamagna. Subsequently he was active in Florence, apparently doing stained-glass windows as well as paintings there. He made his will in 1394. His work shows at first the influence of the Gerini --particularly Lorenzo di Niccolo, whose pupil he probably was --and subsequently, as he became caught up in the International Gothic movement, that of Lorenzo Monaco.

Scene from the Legend of St Nicholas

tempera on panel, 7 x 13½ ins.

Condition

Probably a fragment. The architecture at the top would appear to have been cut. and the base-section probably continued in both directions.

Provenance

x Eugénè Reiffel-Mueller, Frankfurt-am-Main (1926). Acquired by Dr Clowes in 19 .

Literature

(Staedel Institute, Frankfurt, Ausstellung von Meisterwerken alter Malerei aus Privatbesitz, summer 1925, no.67, ill. (cat. by G.Swarzenski).

Exhibited

Frankfurt, 1925 (see Lit.) ; Ind., 1959, no.41.

Called Florentine, fourteenth century in the 1926 catalogue. W. Suida subsequently certified it <sup>(1929)</sup> as a work by Mariotto<sup>(1)</sup>. Some twenty years later he then recorded his changed view that it was by Simone da Bologna (active 1335-1399)<sup>(2)</sup>. Neither of these attributions is convincing, but the view that it is a Bolognese work merits consideration. Not enough, however, has been published on Bolognese art of this period for an attribution to be really feasible.

The incident represented shows <sup>Saint</sup> ~~St~~ Nicholas of Bari throwing gold into the room where a destitute nobleman is asleep with his three daughters<sup>(3)</sup>.

#### Notes.

1. Doc. of Feb. 1929, Clowes archives. The statement there of agreement with the Frankfurt cat. appears based on a misapprehension.

2. Unpub. MS., Clowes archives.

3. As told in Jacobus <sup>de</sup> ~~da~~ Voragine's Aurea Legenda. Cf. G. Keftal, Iconography of the Saints in the Central and South Italian Schools, <sup>of Painting</sup> Florence, 1965 ed., pp. 803/4.