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## Antiques

Eve M. Kahn

### Glimpses of Gilded France

Parisian artists painted book illustrations and stained-glass portraits around 1500 that hark back to ancient Greece. For windowpanes, woodcuts and parchment pages, they depicted fluted columns and arched doorways around saints, Greek philosophers and French royals.

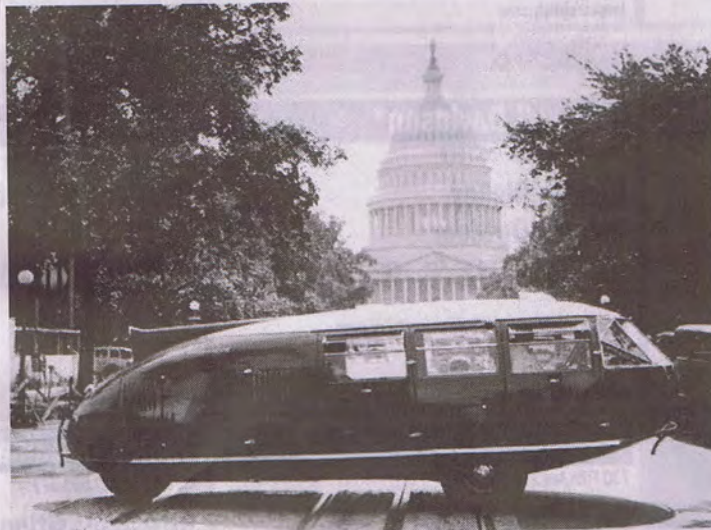
Les Enluminures, a Paris gallery, has brought about 40 of the neo-Classical-flavored works for "France 1500: The Pictorial Arts at the Dawn of the Renaissance," which opens on Wednesday at C. G. Boerner on East 73rd Street in Manhattan. Prices range from \$7,500 for a gilded initial A from Anne of Brittany's religious music scores, which were cut apart around 1840, to an amount in the seven figures for a 1540 prayer book that belonged to her son-in-law, King Francis I. (Les Enluminures paid about \$500,000 for the volume at Christie's in London in July.)

Three stained-glass religious scenes at C. G. Boerner cost between \$22,000 and \$30,000 each. Five carved wooden boxes (\$90,000 to \$115,000 each), with colorful woodcuts pasted inside the lids, originally contained documents and saints' relics.

Most of the lids conceal sliver-thin compartments, which have been nailed shut for centuries. The slits may hold locks of saints' hair, or perhaps "a snippet of Veronica's veil," said Sandra Hindman, the owner of Les Enluminures, referring to a cloth that is now lost and according to legend, was used to wipe Jesus' brow. Ms. Hindman plans to have a medieval-wood expert gingerly open the compartments while the boxes are in New York.



GALERIE LES ENLUMINURES



DYMAXION FILM



SOTHEBY'S

Clockwise from top, religious stained glass from "France: 1500," on view at C. G. Boerner; a vase by Tiffany artisans, at Sotheby's; and a prototype of the Dymaxion car, topic of a new film.