

## Giovannino de Grassi's "The Lombard Haggadah" at Les Enluminures, New York

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*"The Lombard Haggadah," Milan, c. 1390-1400 Circle of Giovannino de Grassi (Master of the Paris Tacuinum?), f. 36v, Labor of the Month, August (Elu), Peasant threshing wheat (Courtesy: Artist and Les Enluminures)*

Les Enluminures, New York, will be exhibiting Giovannino de Grassi's "The Lombard Haggadah" from April 12 through April 21, 2019.

For Passover, Les Enluminures presents a series of events that center on a remarkable medieval manuscript: a Haggadah with 75 watercolor paintings created in the circle of the famous artist Giovannino de Grassi (d. 1398) in Milan in the late 14th century. Telling the story of the flight of the Jews from Egypt based on the biblical book of "Exodus," the Haggadah was — and still is — used during the Seder, the ritual meal of the first night of Passover. Its text has been richly illustrated by many artists in different countries for over 700 years.

"With its seventy-five illustrations, occupying the margins of almost every page, this manuscript expresses the elegant language of the Gothic International Style in Lombardy. Directly related to the workshop of the renowned master builder, sculptor, and illuminator Giovannino de Grassi, who flourished under the patronage of the noble Visconti family in

Milan, the present volume was probably commissioned by a wealthy Jewish individual. The presumed date of origin of 'The Lombard Haggadah' corresponds with a period known for its wave of immigration into Lombardy of northern European Jews, who were especially welcomed by Duke Gian Galeazzo Visconti.

Last on public exhibit in the Paris World's Fair in 1900, when it belonged to a French family, 'The Lombard Haggadah' was then sold in 1927 in London to the noted collector of Hebrew manuscripts Zalman Schocken. Little known, the manuscript has remained in private hands ever since. It survives as the earliest standalone Italian Haggadah. Of the greatest rarity, it is one of three illustrated medieval Haggadot still privately owned. It is for sale," says the gallery.

Sharon Liberman Mintz, Curator of Jewish Art, The Jewish Theological Seminary, says, "I have worked with Hebrew illuminated manuscripts all of my professional life, and this one stands out for its fresh, charming, and sometimes unique paintings as well as its historical importance."

Founded by Sandra Hindman more than 25 years ago and with locations in Paris, Chicago, and New York, Les Enluminures has forged long-standing relationships with major museums and prestigious private collections throughout the world. It exhibits at TEFAF Maastricht, TEFAF New York, Masterpiece, and Frieze Masters. The gallery is well-known for the level of its scholarship evident in its numerous publications but also for the diversity, high quality, and provenance of the works it offers for sale.

"I am honored to be involved in a project of such magnitude prompted by this rare and stunning work of art," says Sandra Hindman. "Hebrew manuscript illumination is a field that has always held great interest and attraction for me. I confess to being thoroughly enchanted by the present manuscript."

*The exhibition will be on view from April 12 through April 21, 2019, at Les Enluminures, 23 East 73rd Street 7th Floor, Penthouse New York, NY 10021, USA.*

*For details, visit: <https://www.lesenluminures.com>*