



BOOK ILLUMINATOR, FROM THE CIRCLE OF MELO DA SIENA (MASTER OF THE MONTELABATE CROSS?) Historiated initial M with the three Marys at the empty tomb of Christ. Vellum. Perugia, ca. 1320-25. 105 x 110 mm. Provenance: - 1994, London Sam Fogg. - in the current collection since that date. Bibliography: - Gaudenz Freuler, *Italian Miniatures from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Centuries*, Milan 2013, p. 624. - Friedrich G. Zeileis, *Più ridon le carte* (3.ed.), Rauris 2014, p. 280-281 This most delicately painted initial M, with a dainty depiction of the arrival of the three Marys at the empty grave in the centre, opens the third response of the first nocturn for Easter Monday. The hybrid style of this painting leads us to assume that this historiated initial was produced around 1320-25. In the work of this illuminator we witness those elements which enabled a style of illumination with its own

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identity to emerge in Perugia, and which led to masters such as Vanni di Baldolo and Matteo di Ser Cambio.

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