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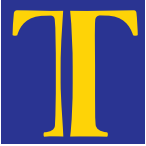
Marie d'Orleans, Joan of Arc, ca. 1830

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Marie d'Orleans
French (1813-1839)
Joan of Arc, ca. 1830
Silver and enamel
16 ½ x 6 ¼ x 6 ¼ in.
Museum Purchase, 99.8



his silver statuette, acquired in 1999, is one of my favorite works in the Haggerty collection. It depicts Joan of Arc (1412-1431) in armor with her arms folded clasping her sword as she thanks God for His intervention on behalf of the kingdom of France. On June 18, 1429, the French forces led by La Hire and Joan of Arc won a miraculous victory at Patay over the English archers of Talbot and Falstaff. This victory enabled Joan to convince Charles VII to go to Reims where he was anointed and crowned King of France on July 17, 1429.

The statuette was cast by the Susse Frères foundry. On its base are two standards in enamel which frame a shield inscribed "Patay." The one standard is Joan of Arc's personal banner, inscribed "Jhesus Maria," and the other standard bears the image of the Sacred Heart and the inscription, "Coeur de Jésus, sauvez la France" ("Heart of Jesus, save France"). These details lead me to surmise that this work may be a 1870s reissue of the original 1830s bronze statuette created by Princess Marie-Christine d'Orléans, the daughter of King Louis-Philippe. Its components reflect the 1870 national vow dedicating France to the Sacred Heart after its defeat at the hands of the Prussians. In September, 1870, such a flag was created by the nuns of Paray-le-Monial at the request of Father Victor de Musy. Ironically, on December 2, 1870, a French army which carried this banner fought again at Patay, but was defeated. This version of *Joan of Arc at Prayer* was thus an appeal to the French nation to return to the purity and selfless devotion of the maiden warrior, Joan of Arc.

This work holds particular significance for the Marquette campus, as the Joan of Arc Chapel provides a center of spiritual life for students and faculty. The Haggerty Museum owns three other works, two paintings and one sculpture, inspired by her life. In addition, one of the major bells in the Marquette carillon is inscribed: "I am Joan of Arc, hearken to my voice." All these works, but especially *Joan of Arc at Prayer*, invite the Marquette community to remember the angel Gabriel's words to Mary, words which served to inspire Saint Joan of Arc as well: "Nothing is impossible with God," (Luke 1:37).

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