

RESTORATION SUPPORTED BY THE OHIO CHAPTER.

RAPHAEL DESIGNED WOODEN SHUTTERS

BY FRA GIOVANNI DA VERONA
AND GIOVANNI BARILI



The first step in the restoration process, after removing the shutters and taking them down to the wood lab, was to disinfect the wood. This process is done by sealing it in a bag and little by little removing the oxygen resulting in the death of the organic life in the wood. Afterwards, the restorers proceeded to remove the iron hinges located on the back of the shutters, which were eventually reattached in their original positions at the end of the restoration. The work on the wood began with fixing the cracks on the structure which is either done by inserting strong glues or by adding wood inserts into the inlaid and non-inlaid in order to stabilize the areas. The fronts of the doors were restored by cleaning the fine carved and inlaid details and by restoration of the missing portions of wood which were replaced when possible with the existing original pieces. The restoration was complete by polishing the wood in the manner and tone adopted by the recently restored shutters in the Room of Heliodorus.

The shutters were part of the rich accents that decorate the rooms of Julius II and Leo X, usually referred to as the Raphael Rooms. The coats of arms of Julius II and his successor, Leo X, are depicted on the windows and doors give a very likely indication that they were created during this time. The beautiful decorations

feature inlaid carvings that are the work of an unknown carver working at the time of Paul III Farnese (1534-1549), who was inspired by Fra Giovanni da Verona and Giovanni Barili. This same master craftsman is the original carpenter of all the earliest wooden furnishings in these two rooms and follows closely the decorations of the carpentry in the other two Raphael Rooms.

About the Project

Artist: Fra Giovanni Da Verona
and Giovanni Barili
Date: Early XVI century
Dimensions: 300 cm x 60 cm
Material: Wood

State of Preservation: The wooden doors and shutters are damaged and dehydrated from the sunlight which has caused partial warping of the structural panels creating cracks. The inlays have also become detached and withdrawn from the carved panels as well as total oxidation of the surface of varnish on the front of the panels. On the back the iron hinges and nails are loosening.

Total cost for restoration \$59,377.40 USD

*art is not a study of positive
reality, it is the seeking for ideal truth.*



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