

Choir stalls Vence Cathedral



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1455 1495 1499

Some dates



Form



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Help to navigate



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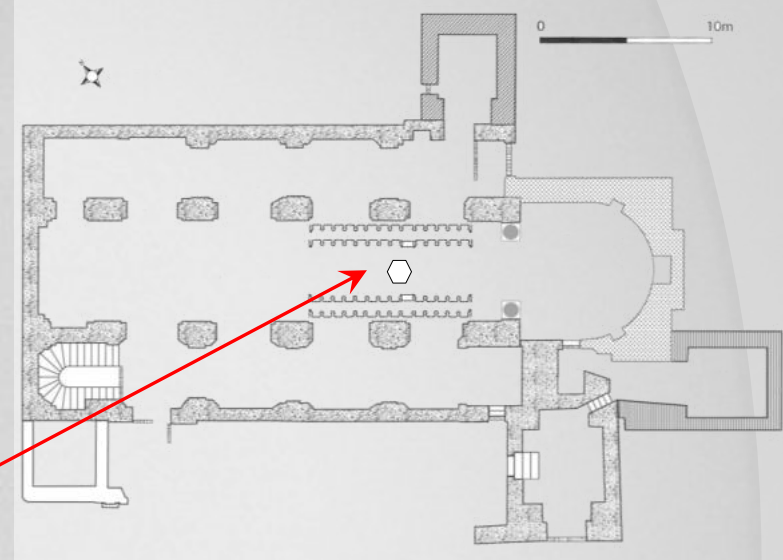
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1455 1495 1499

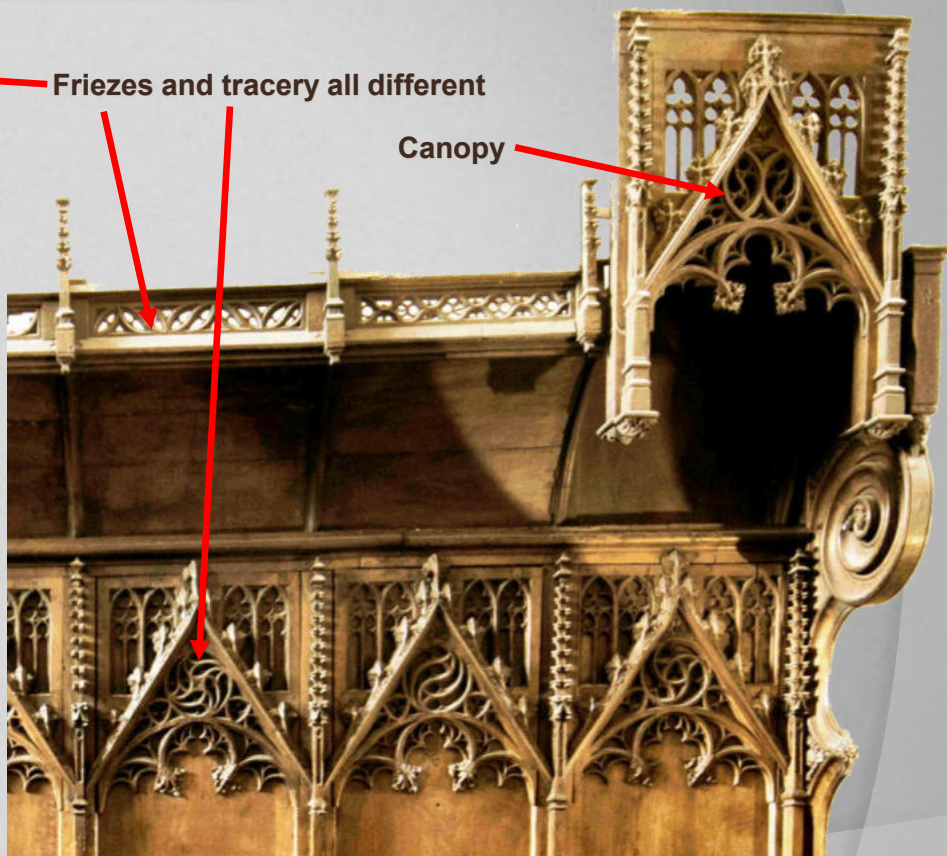
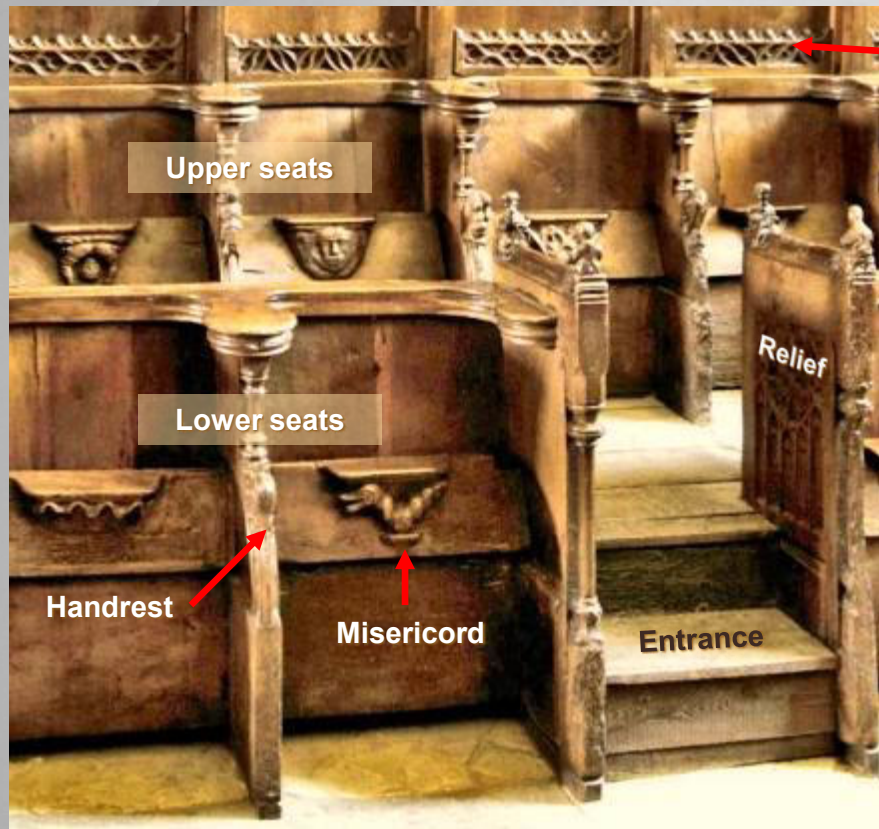
Some dates

- 1455** The chapter of Vence orders these stalls from a Master Fustier (Carpenter) of Grasse, Jacotin BELLOT. We have the deed of order and the price of the 46 stalls for an annual amount of 50 guilders, 120 kg of wheat and 326 liters of good wine. The chapter must provide walnut and pear wood.
- 1459** After 4 years of work, the stalls are placed in the nave just in front of the altar.
- 1495** The increase in the clergy forced the addition of 6 stalls (2 high and 1 low per rank).
- 1499** The clutter in the nave by the stalls and the Lectern requires the transfer to the tribune after adjustment.
- To unite the two rows of the top, the seat in front, under the stained glass window is created for the provost.
- At the bottom row, the right seat was added in the 19th century.





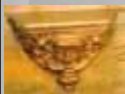
Choir stalls form



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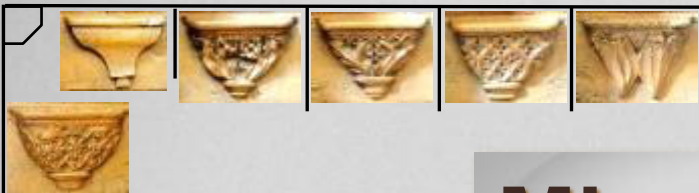


Bishop's
stall



Provost's
stall

Entrance

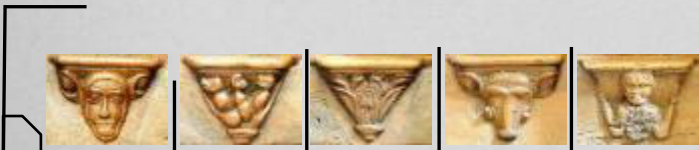


Entrance

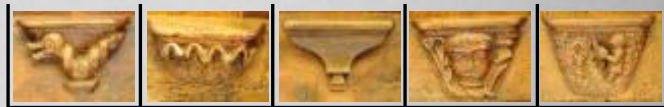


Misericords

Click on an image to enlarge it



Entrance



Sacristan's
stall



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Bishop's stall

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Sacristan's stall

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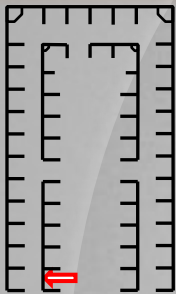
Provost's stall



Entrance



« Misericords »



Upper seat

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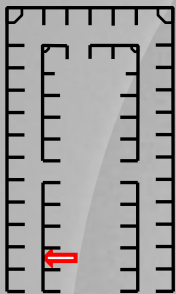


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Fight of the knight and the snail.

A knight in armor is about to fight a giant snail, an animal harmful to crops.

Image Misericord



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Face between two leaves of plantain.

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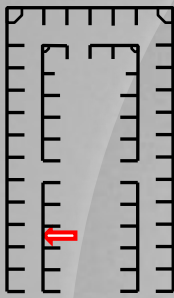
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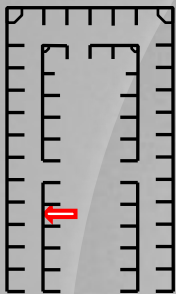
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Reptile.

It seems to be an slow worm. Ripple is the universal sign of water or waves.

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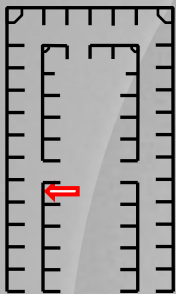
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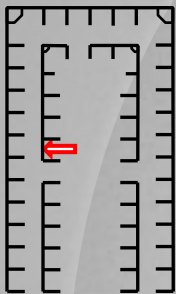
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Monster with a twisted body opening a mouth with menacing teeth.
It has all the features of Leviathan as described in the Bible.

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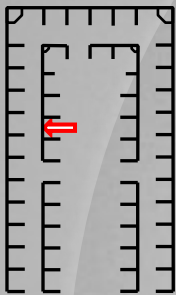
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Bareheaded character with raised arms in prayer position.
It evokes the many representations of Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6:8-28).

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Boar's head.

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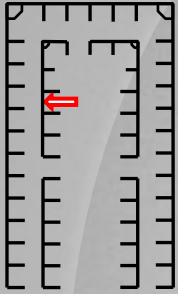
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Symmetrical foliage.
Plants are difficult to identify.

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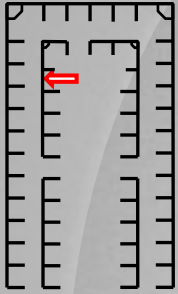
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Three saurians with a globose body resemble the dragon of the stall
The jaw of the animal on the right is square in shape and has teeth.



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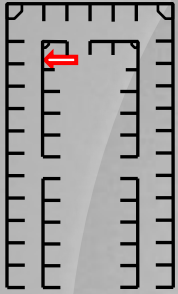
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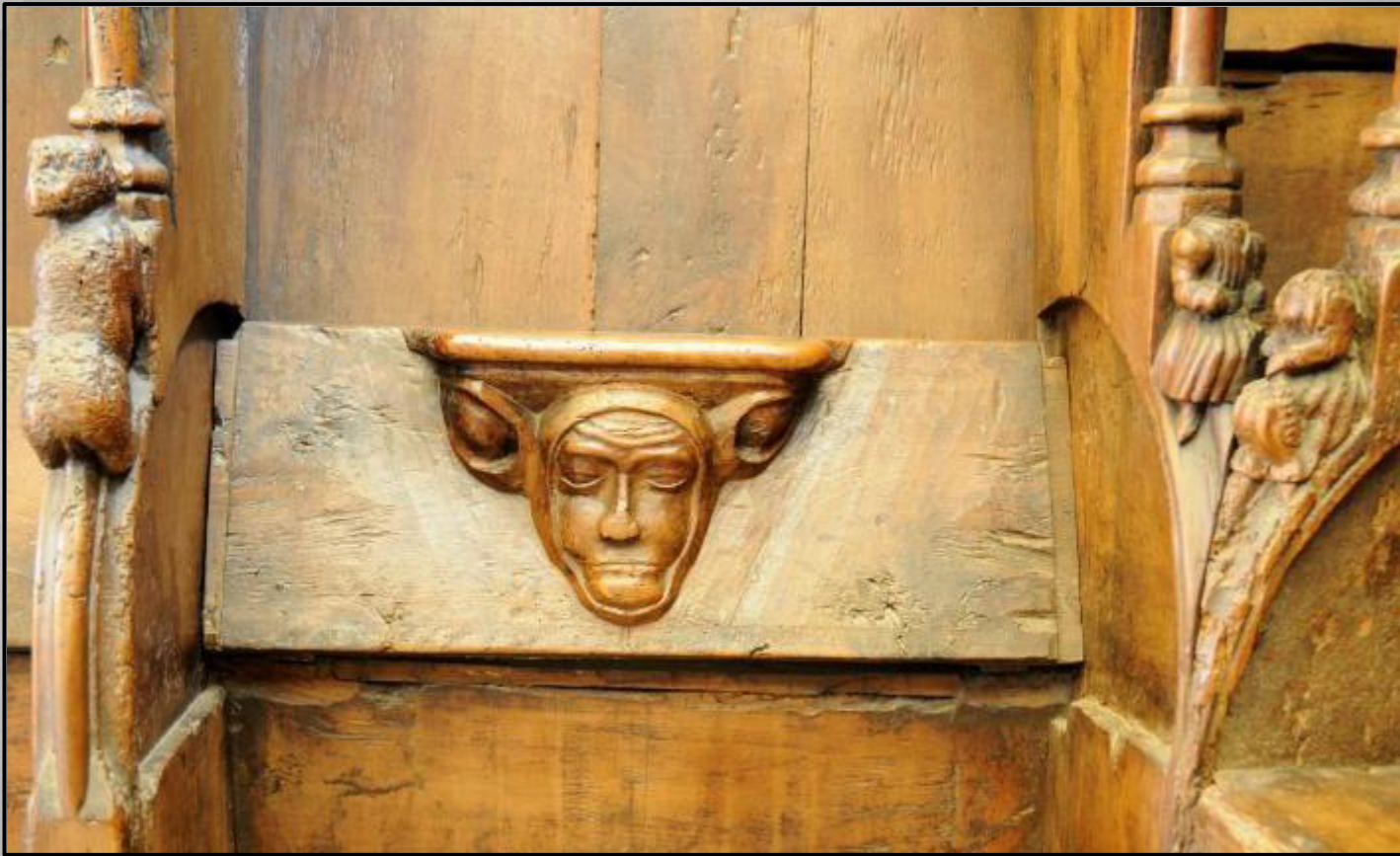
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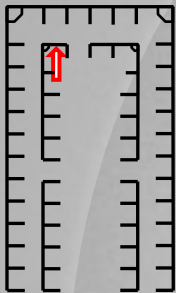


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Crazy face wearing a donkey-eared hood.

He pinches his lips and deep wrinkles dig his forehead. His expression is more concerned than buffoonish.

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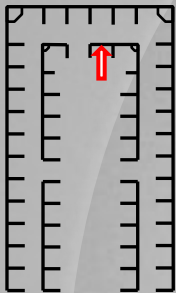
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This stall was reconstructed in the twentieth century and does not have a misericord.

Image Misericord



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This stall was created in the twentieth century and does not have a misericord.

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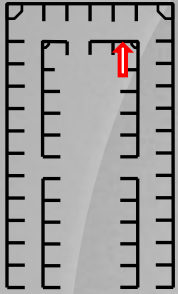
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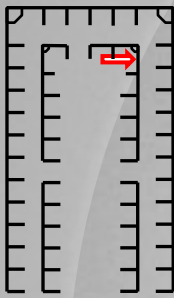


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Three faces in a vegetal setting.

On the left, the faces of an elongated woman and man face each other. On the right, another face turns away.

Image Misericord



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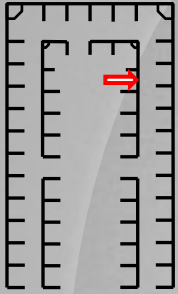
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Two symmetrical plant motifs.
It could be very stylized acanthus leaves.

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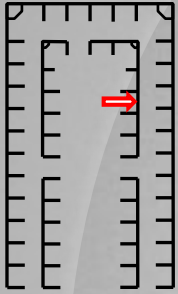
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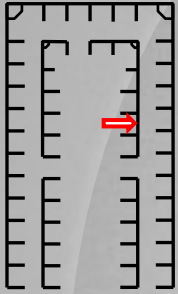


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Two symmetrical foliage.

The cut edges of the leaves draw a central pattern,
which is perhaps one of the alchemical symbols of antimony.

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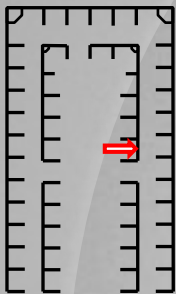


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Networked plant motifs.

They are reminiscent of thistle or chicory leaves.

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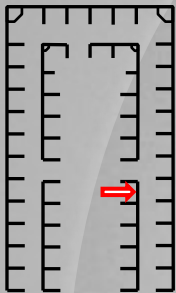


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Two symmetrical leaves.

Leaves of a ribbed vegetable, for example, romaine lettuce.

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Asymmetrical plant motifs.
Plants are difficult to identify.

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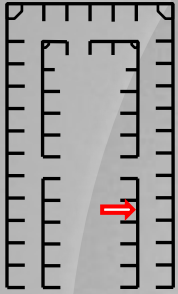
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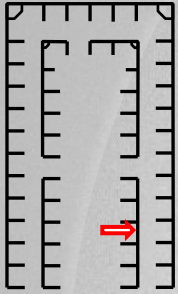
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Symmetrical plant motifs.
Plants are difficult to identify.

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Monk's face between two leaves that come out of his nostrils.
They are leaves of ivy, symbol of immortality.

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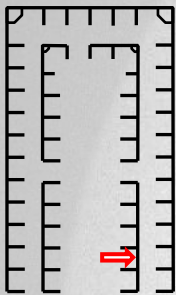
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Symmetrical plant motifs.
Maybe thistles.

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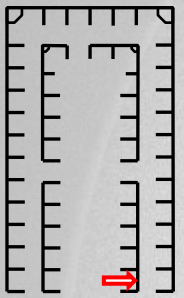
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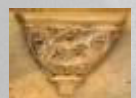


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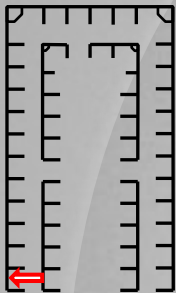


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Upper seat



Lower seat



Sacristan's stall: Symmetrical plant motifs.
Two leafy branches flourish in a vegetal geometry.

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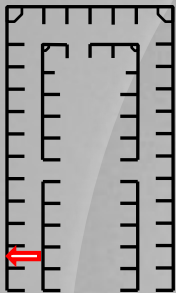
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Mermaid combing and looking at herself in a mirror held with her left hand.
The right arm, bare chest and body covered with scales were erased.

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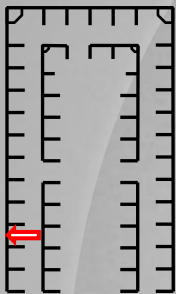
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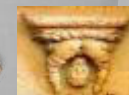
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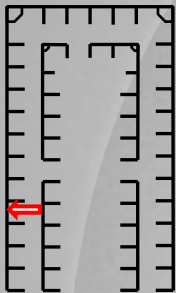


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Oak branch bearing two leaves and an acorn.

Between the two leaves a triangular object, perhaps a corner used to split the wood.

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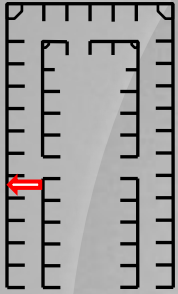


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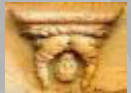
Exhibitionist.

The character lowered his socks and pulled up his tunic to show his buttocks.

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Lion's head.

This sculpture depicts the beneficial aspect of the symbolism of the lion.

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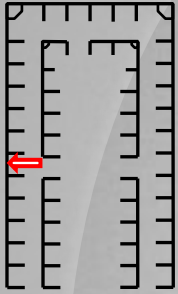
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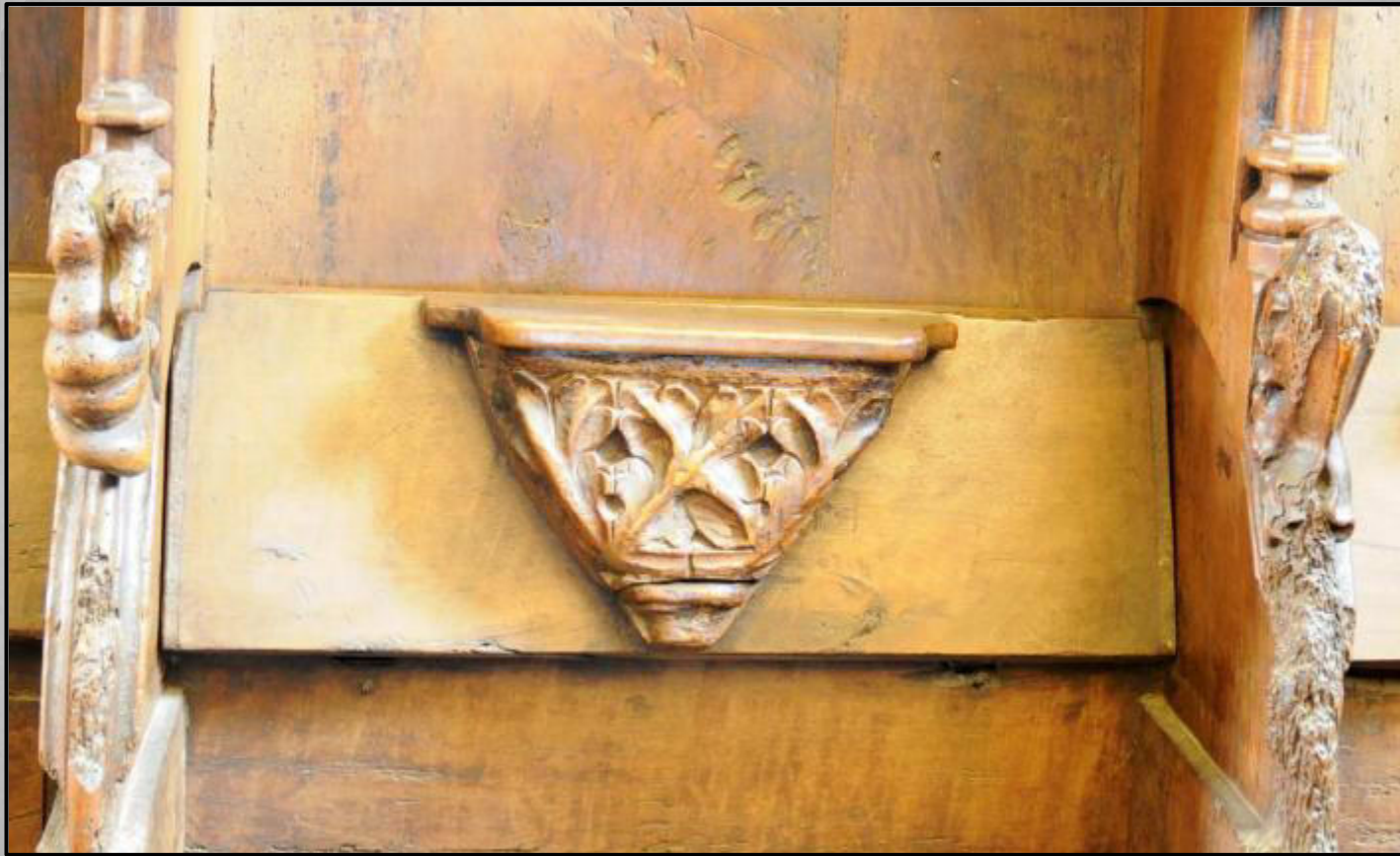
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Symmetrical branches. Crossing paths they draw the Greek letter χ (khi), which with the letter ρ (rô) means chrisim, symbol of Christ.

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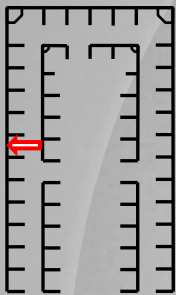
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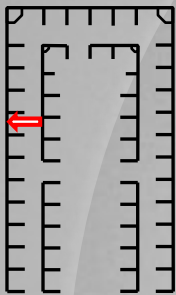
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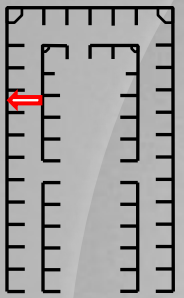
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Monk's face between two foliage of holly that conceal his ears, their tips reach the external angle of his eyes, and he spreads the corners of his mouth with his index fingers. Do not see anything that can disturb, do not hear and do not peddle bad words.

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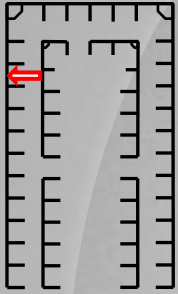
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Symmetrical plant motifs not identifiable.

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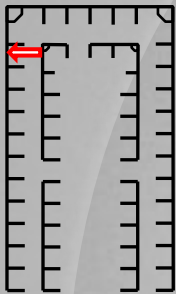


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Monk's face between two oak foliage that release mouth, nostrils and eyes.
His expression is serene: he benefits from the fruits of his meditation.
This monk is the alter ego of the one of the stall



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Bat.

She flees the light of day and hides in the darkness, making her an image of heresy.

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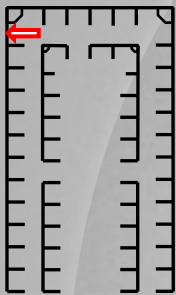
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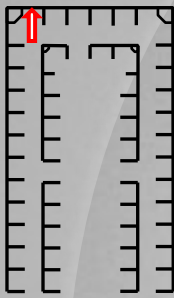
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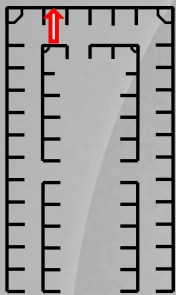
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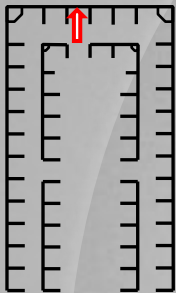
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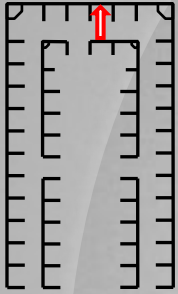
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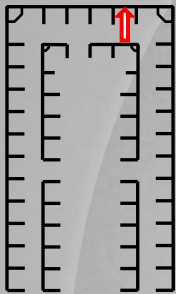
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Monk's face between two symmetrical foliage that comes out of his mouth.
The foliage seems to be made of thistle leaves. This image symbolizes creation by the Word.

Image Misericord



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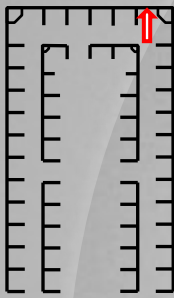


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misericord

Face between two leaves of iridea.

This unsured character is a layman. It could be a portrait.

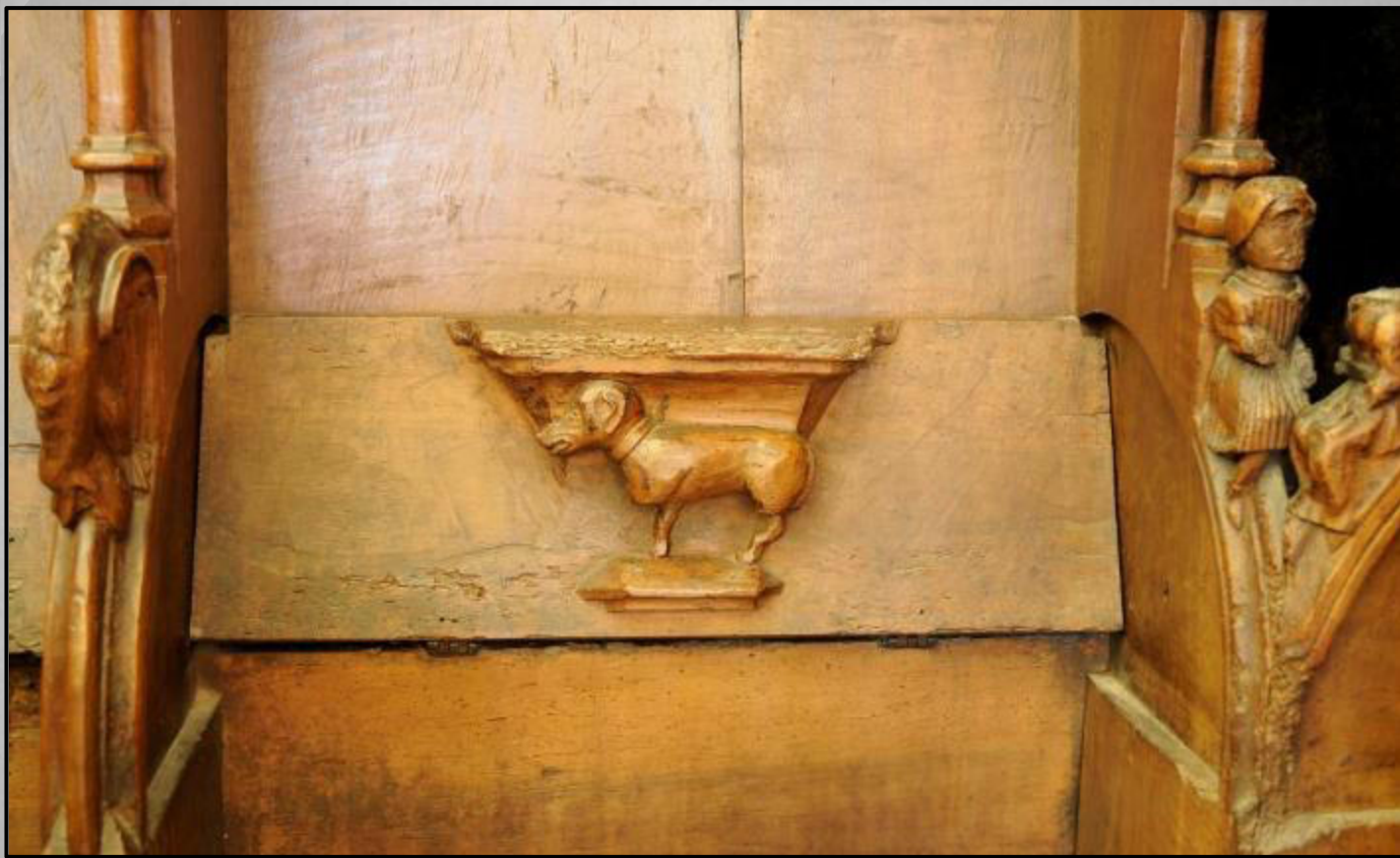
Image Misericord



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Dog wearing a collar.

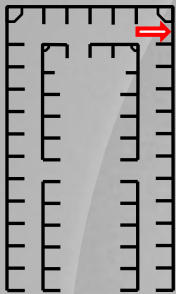
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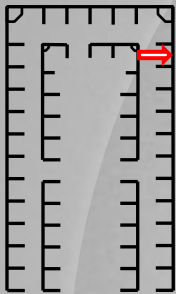
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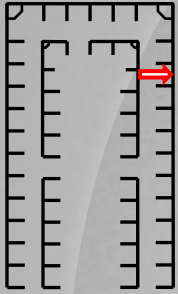


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Fruit in its cup.

This fruit seems to be a hazelnut in the center of its envelope.

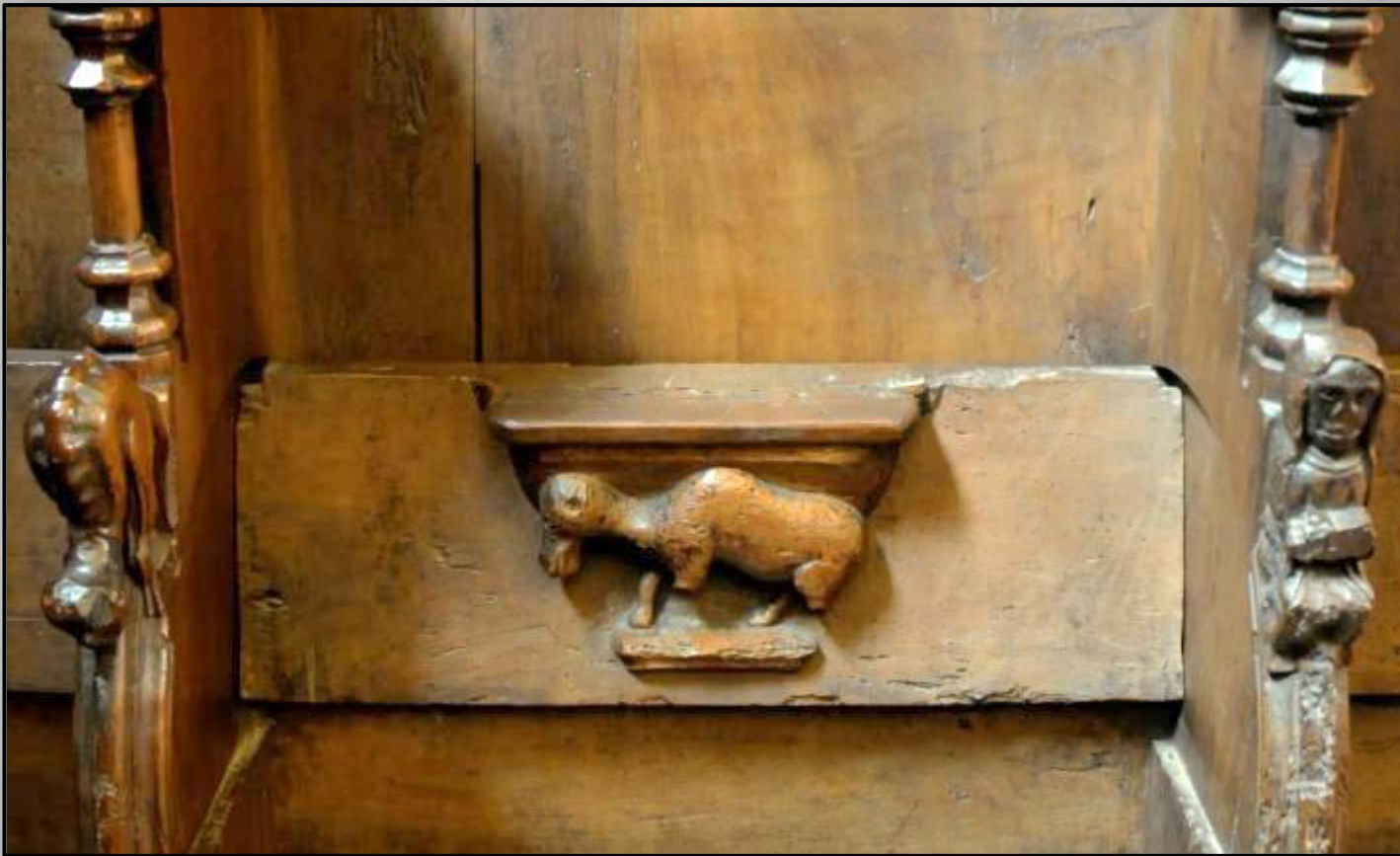
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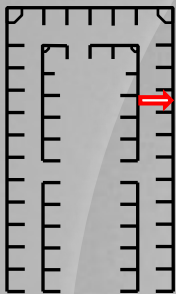


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Dromedary.

The dromedary, like the camel, symbolizes the transmission of tradition.

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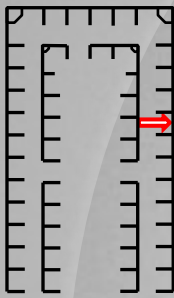
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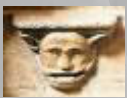
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Gagged face with donkey ears and hanging tongue.
This sculpture illustrates the theme of the gag silencing the gossip.

Image Misericord



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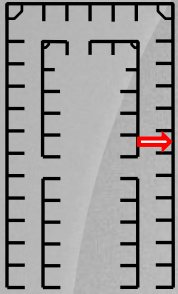
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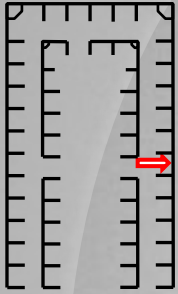


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Symmetrical leaves drawing a V.

It could be a ribbed vegetable, perhaps stylized chard leaves.

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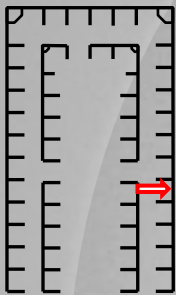


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Female owl carrying a small quadruped.

This bird was originally an owl, whose egrets were deliberately broken:
the symbolism of the female owl is beneficial, unlike that of the owl.

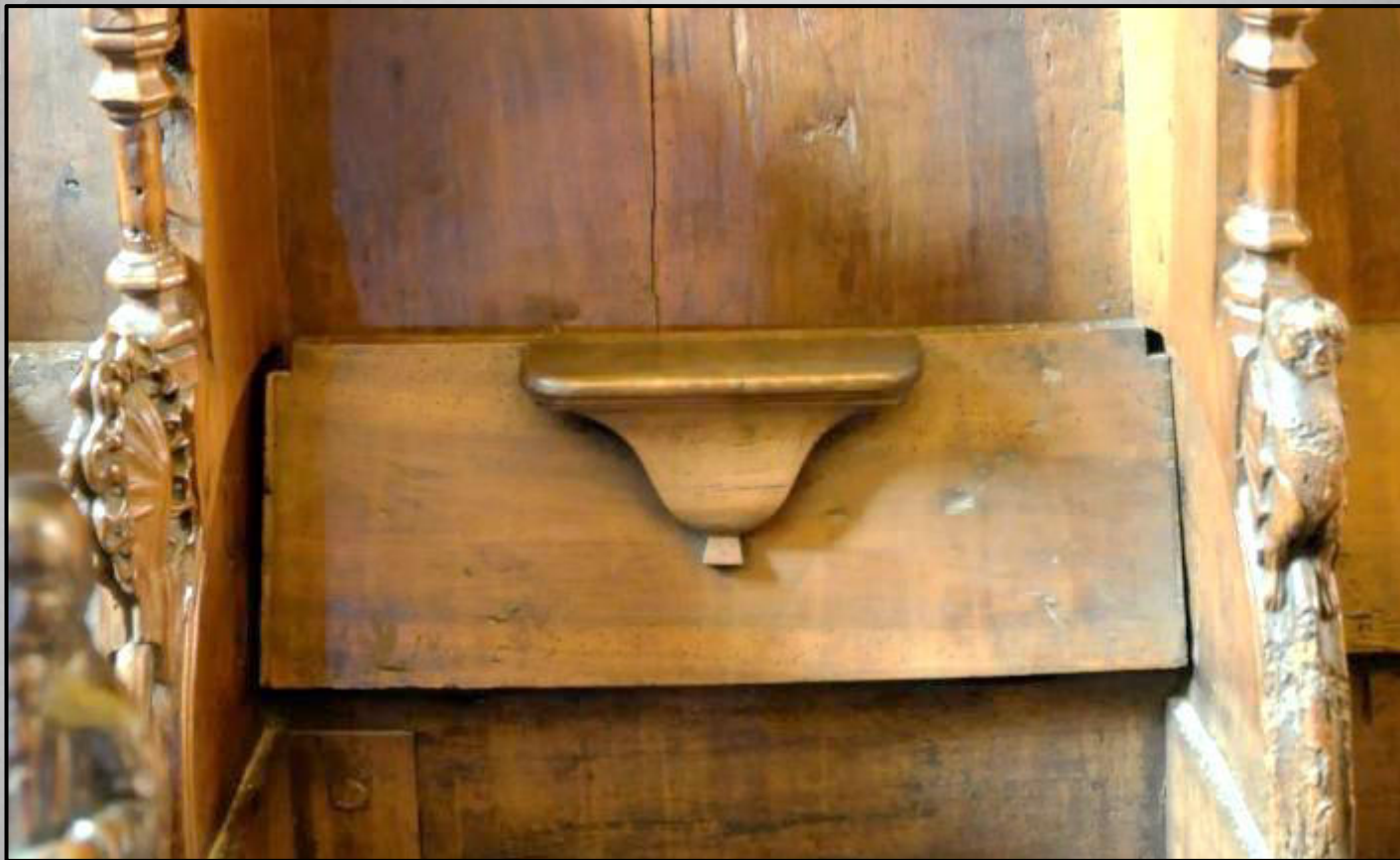
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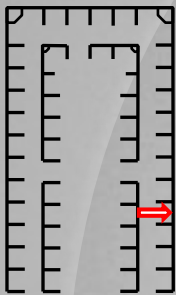
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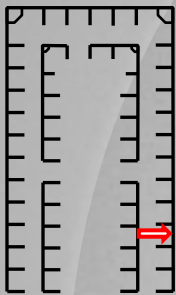
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Double rose with twelve petals.

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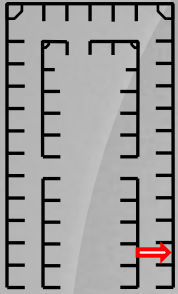
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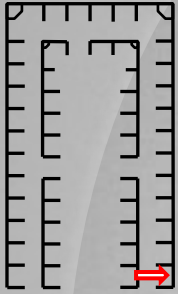


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Dolphin.

Image of Christ, guide and conductor of souls.

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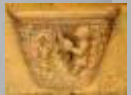


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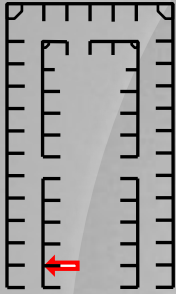
Lower seat

Bishop's stall: Flowering branches of seven flowers.

The number of seven suits the bishop, who is authorized to give the seven sacraments.

« Handrests »

Image Handrest



Upper seat

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misericord



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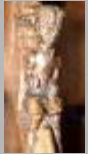
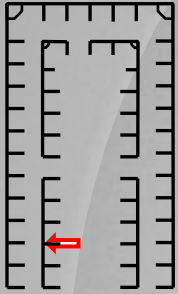
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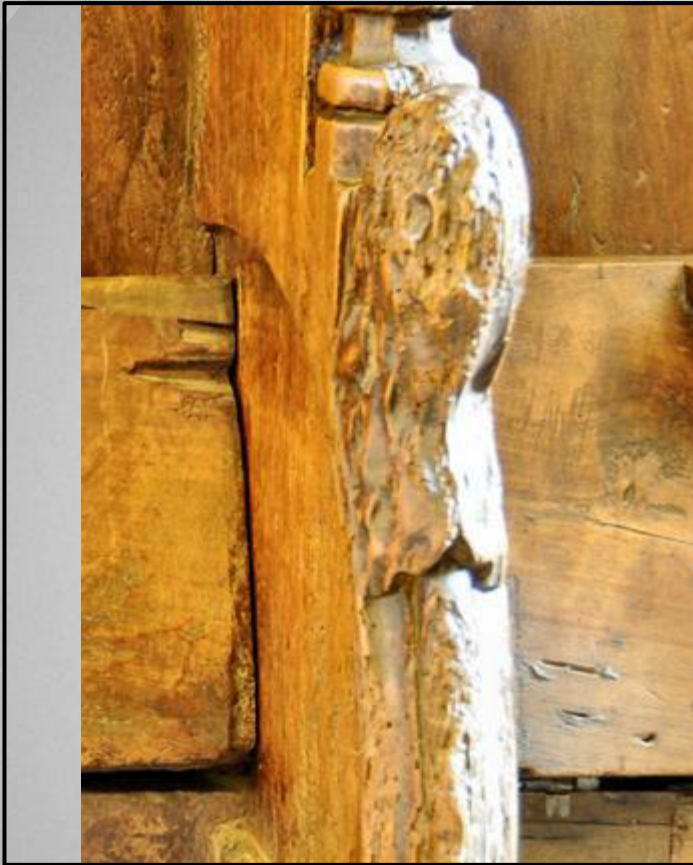
Right
misericord

Craftsman wearing a leather apron.
Saint-Crépin, patron saint of shoemakers, who had a chapel in Vence.

Image Handrest



Previous handrest



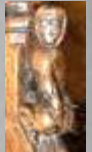
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misericord



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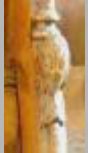
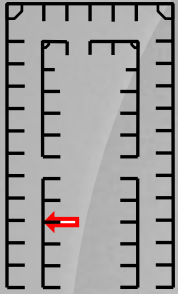
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Right
misericord

Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

Image Handrest



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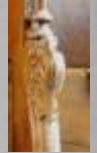
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misericord



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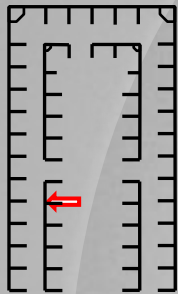
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Right
misericord

Man squatting.

He turns back his head covered with a veil and points to his buttocks with his left hand.

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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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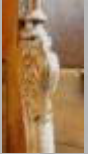
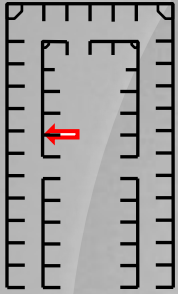


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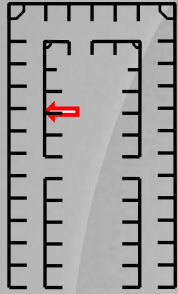
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misericord

Hairy quadruped with a man's face.

It stands on its digital feet with claws. This is the **Manticore**, an imaginary animal.

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misericord

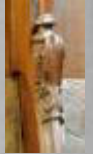


Man dressed in a dress with an embroidered belt.

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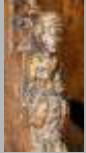
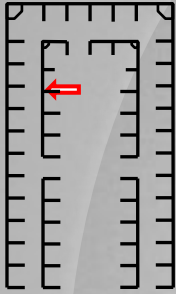


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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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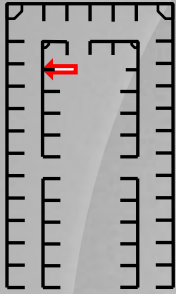


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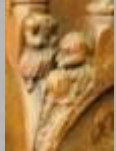
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misericord



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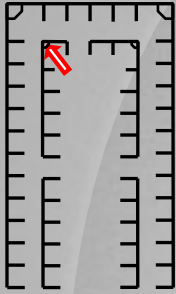
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Right
misericord

Hairy quadruped.

He has a worn face, his hooves split and he turns around. This is the **Leucrote**, an imaginary animal.

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misericord



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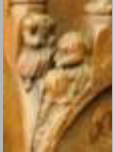
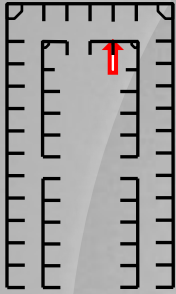
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Two characters with missing heads.

Right: He puts his left hand on a belt embroidered with flowers.

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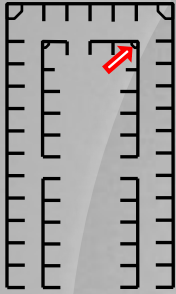
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Right
misericord

Musician angels. *Left: Broken wind instrument Right: String instrument.*
"Praise the Lord by the sound of trumpets, praise Him by the sound of the psaltery and the harp."

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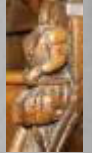
Left misericord

Left: **Character** with a missing head with a long dress.
Right: **Kneeling woman** looking to the right.

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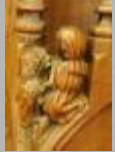
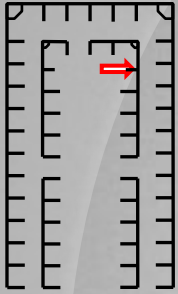


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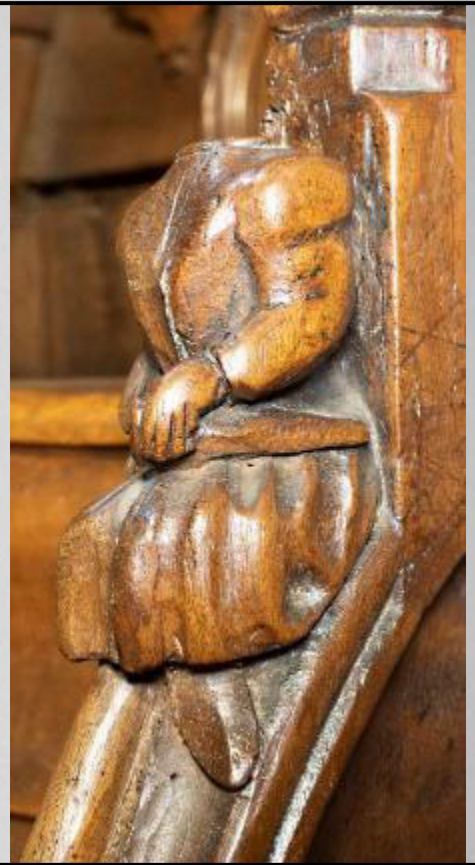
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misericord

Image Handrest



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Left
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Seated man.

He puts his hands on the armrests of his armchair. His sitting position signals his hierarchical superiority.

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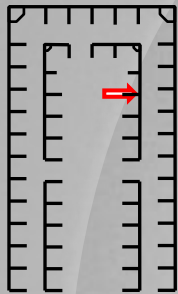


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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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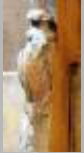
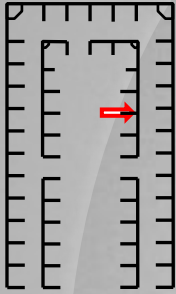


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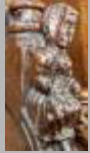
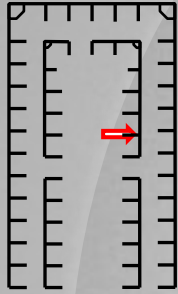
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Right
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Lord with fur collar.

His right hand holds an object with a rounded top (the Old Testament),
his left hand is placed on a closed book (the New Testament).

Image Handrest



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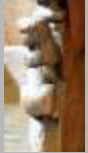
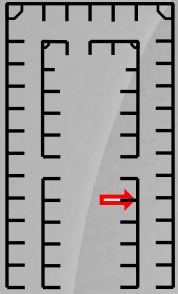
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Right
misericord

Lion who turns around.
It is well recognizable by its mane.

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Climbing monkey.

It is recognizable thanks to its simian face and its digitized legs.

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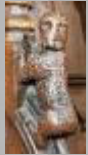
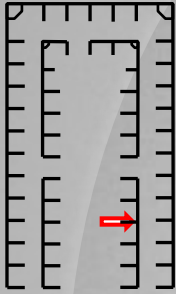


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Man holding a book case.

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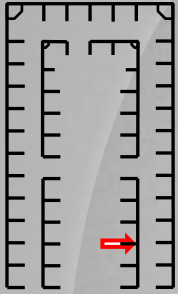


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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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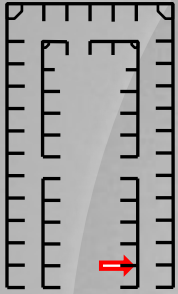


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Bear turning around recognizable by its coat and paws with fingers and claws.
He wears around his neck a necklace that a leather leash extends on his back.

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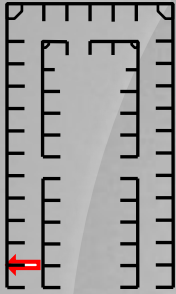


Upper seat

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Lower seat



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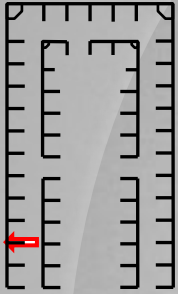
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Right
misericord

Wild woman carrying her child.

The wild man faces them at the entrance of the stalls ([See the wild man](#))

Image Handrest



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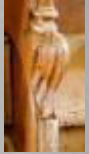
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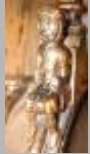
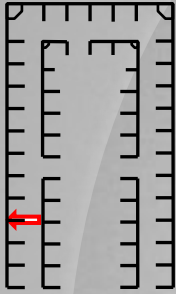
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Right
misericord

Musician with broken right forearm and left hand.
We see between his lips the trace of the tip of a musical instrument.

Image Handrest



Previous handrest

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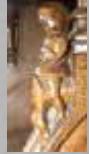


Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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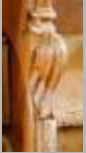
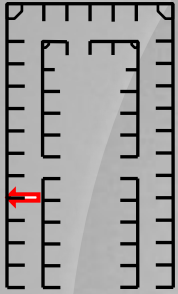


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Previous handrest



Left
misericord

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Next handrest

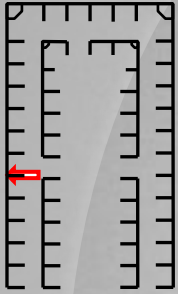
Handrests
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Right
misericord

Man astride on another character.

We recognize a man mounted on the back of another man. It could be the astride game.

Image Handrest



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Next handrest

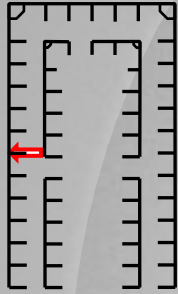
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Right
misericord

Fight of two snakes.

Two animals, half snakes half dragons, fight each other by embracing each other.

Image Handrest



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misericord

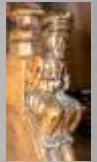


Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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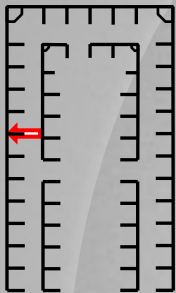


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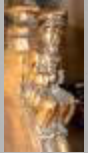
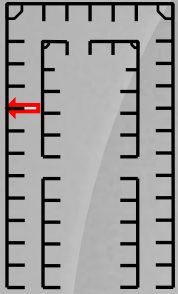
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misericord

Bearded man.
He holds a book or a ream of paper.

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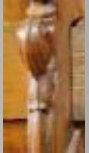
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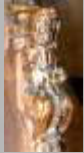
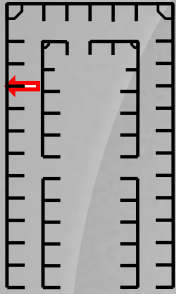
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Right
misericord

Franciscan monk with hood and cord.

This monk sings one of the psalms of the book he holds, as indicated by his open mouth in O.

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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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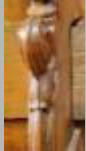
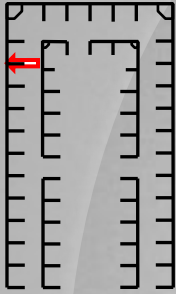


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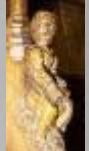
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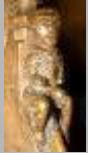
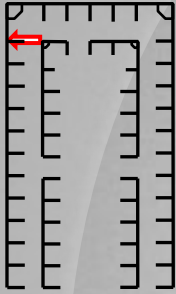
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Monkey wearing a flat collar extended by a now broken leash.

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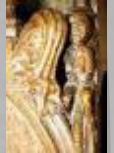
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misericord



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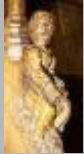
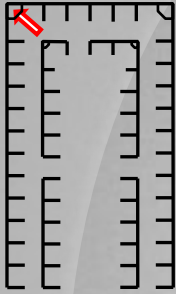
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Young cleric.
He holds an open book on his lap.

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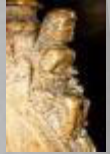
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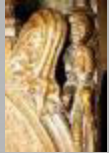
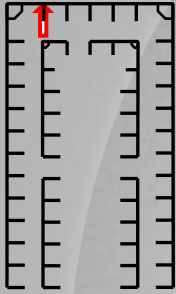
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misericord

Left: Coiled leaf.

Right: Common man in peasant dress.

Image Handrest



Previous handrest



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misericord



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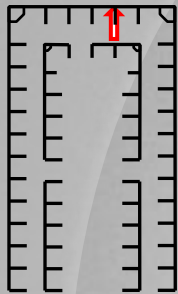
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Handrests
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Right
misericord

Young girl with flowers (Sainte Roseline des Arcs). In her right hand a handful of flowers. With her left hand raises her apron containing other flowers. Her floating hair is a sign of virginity.

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misericord



Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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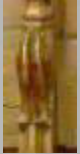
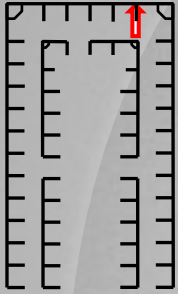


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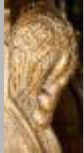
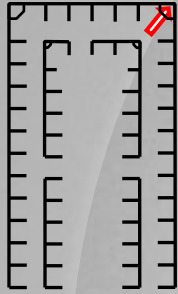
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Right
misericord

Winged dragon biting its tail.

This dragon has a flat beak with strong teeth, which closes on the tip of its tail.

Image Handrest



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Left misericord



Left: **Male character** with a covered head.
Right: **Character** whose head is missing.

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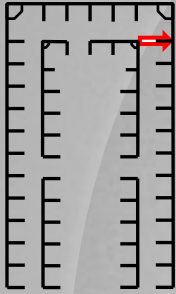


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Left
misericord



Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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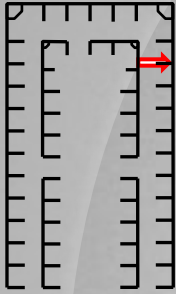


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Image Handrest



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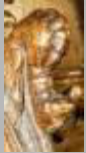
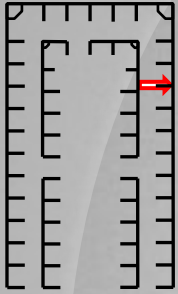
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Man-faced monster,
It is hybrid with almost human facies.

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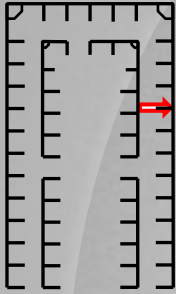
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Right
misericord

Canon wearing the almuce and reading an open book.

The almuce is a fur headdress that the canons wore to protect themselves from the cold.

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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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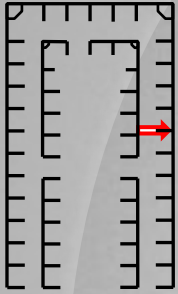


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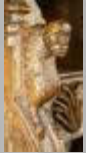
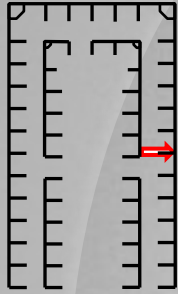
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misericord

Sphinx with head and bust of a man with empennate wings and clawed feet.
Positive aspect of the symbolism of the sphinx, emblem of life, light and resurrection.

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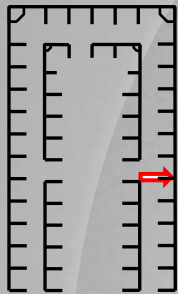
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Character with a covered head.

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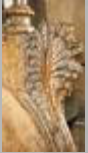
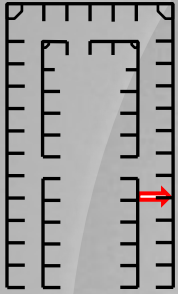
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misericord

Two adjoining leaves.

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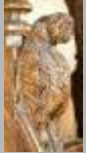
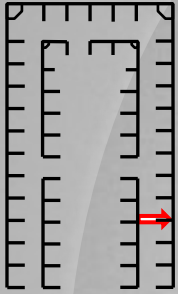
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Right
misericord

Monster with bat wings and human face.
It has the morphology of the **wyvern**.

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Cabbage leaf curling up on itself.

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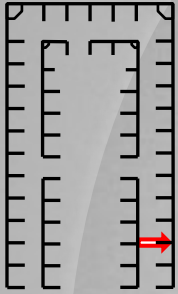


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Left
misericord

Bagpipe player.

He compresses with his right arm the pocket of the instrument,
while his fingers play a melody on the pipe.

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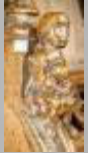
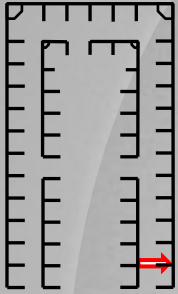


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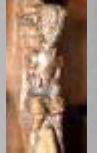
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Lower seat

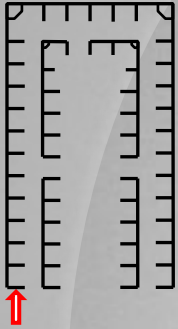
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Right
misericord

Wild Man.

He, the wild woman ([See the wild women](#)) and their children have been the subject of many representations, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. They are major figures in popular mythology.

« Reliefs »



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Spiral from a leaf.



Spiral starting between a bearded head capped with a skullcap and a saurian head, a head upside down, referring to the carnival theme of the inverted world.



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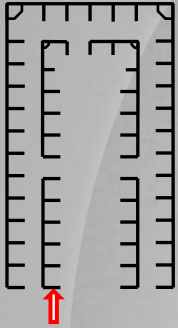
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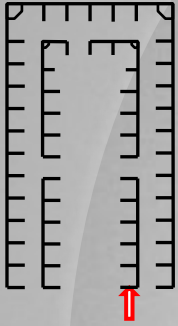
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Sacristan's stall



Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: A prophet on the left with the parchment unrolled on his lap (Old Testament) facing an apostle of whom only the bottom of the robe remains (New Testament).



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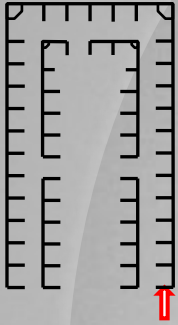
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Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: An apostle on the left totally worn (New Testament) facing a prophet with a rectangular object rounded in a semicircle upwards (Old Testament).

Image Relief



Previous
relief



Bishop's stall adorned with special care.
None of the others reliefs present such details.



Male face whose mouth emits a spiral.



Small mask that has the appearance of a skull, surrounded by leaves. Symbolizes the life and death of vegetation.



Animal-headed monster (canid type) that emits a spiral.



A kneeling man crushes a saurian head with his buttocks.

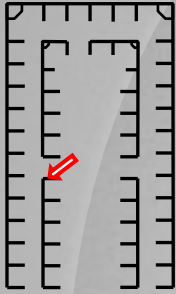
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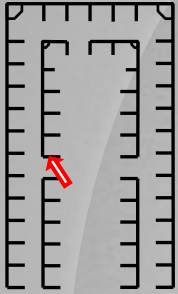
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Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: An apostle on the left with an open book (New Testament) facing a prophet with a phylactery (Old Testament).



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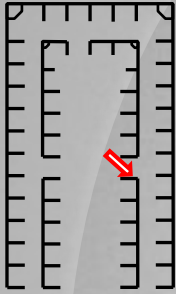
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Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: a prophet on the left with a phylactery (Old Testament) facing an apostle (New Testament).



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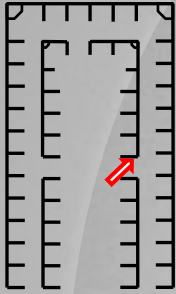
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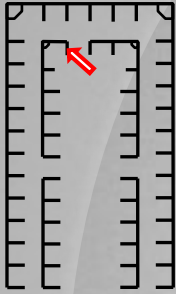
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Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: An apostle on the left with an open book (New Testament) facing a prophet with a phylactery (Old Testament).



Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: A prophet on the left (Old Testament) facing an apostle with an open book (New Testament).



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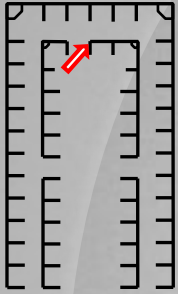
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Theme of the concordance of the two Testaments: A prophet (Old Testament) versus an apostle (New Testament).



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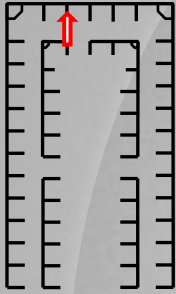
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Theme of the Concordance of the Two Testaments: A Prophet (Old Testament) and an Apostle (New Testament).



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Spiral from a leaf



Spiral



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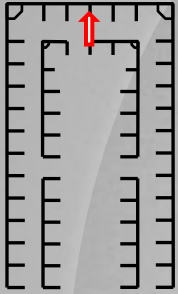
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Provost's stall on the south side

Image Relief



Previous relief



Spiral from a leaf



Spiral dismissed by a snake curled up on itself.



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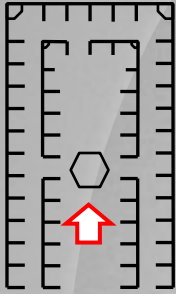
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Next relief

Provost's stall on the north side

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Image Lectern



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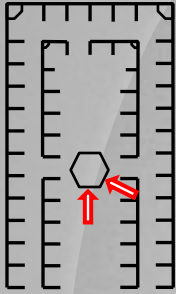
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Lectern placed in the middle of the stalls.
It bears the **antiphonary** of the 15th century (song book of the antiphons).

Image Lectern



Lectern



Lectern panels.

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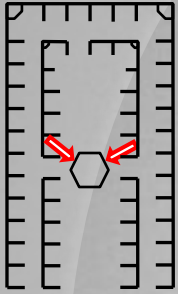
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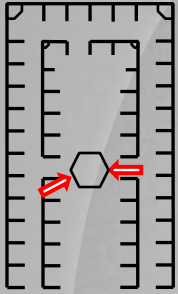
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Lectern panels.

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Lectern

Panel and angle of the Lectern.