



Around 1515, Simon Bening (1484-1561) created this illumination which depicts workers preparing flax for linen.

The work is part of a book of hours, known as the *DaCosta Hours*, published in the town of Bruges (Belgium). Today it is owned by the Pierpont Morgan Library.

The work, which was published in Bruges (Belgium) was purchased by J. Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913) in 1910 and is part of the collections at the Pierpont Morgan Library (where it is identified as M.399).

Curators at the Morgan tell us about the provenance of this illumination (and the book of hours in which it appears):

Probably made ca. 1515 for a member of the Portuguese Sa' (Saa) family of Porto, possibly Joao Rodrigues de Sa' (original arms in a blue and silver checkered pattern painted beneath the Da Costa arms on fol. 1v);

owned ca. 1520 by Don Alvaro da Costa (arms on flyleaf), chamberlain of Manuel I of Portugal;

passed by inheritance to the Duque de Mesquitela family;

exhibited in Lisbon in 1882 (Exposicao retrospectiva de arte ornamental Portuguesa e Hespanhola, cat. no. 17);

perhaps sold by the Mesquitela family after 1890;

sold by Quaritch (1905) to George C. Thomas of Philadelphia (cat. 1907, pp. 37-38);

purchased by J. Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913) from Thomas's heirs in 1910; J.P. Morgan (1867-1924).

Click on the image for a full-page view.

Credits:

Simon Bening created this illumination circa 1515. Today it is maintained by the Pierpont Morgan Library.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Peasants-Preparing-Flax-for-Linen-0)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Peasants-Preparing-Flax-for-Linen-0>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Peasants-Preparing-Flax-for-Linen-0)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Peasants-Preparing-Flax-for-Linen-0>