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The World's Most Coveted Masterpiece

The Unwanted History of the Mystic Lamb

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19-20 April 1566




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1425
Jan moves to Bruges and is appointed Court Painter and valet de chamber to Philip the Good.

1426
Hubert van Eyck dies.
The Ghent Altarpiece, originally commissioned of Hubert van Eyck by Joos Vijd (perhaps as early as 1420) is taken up by Jan. The state of the altarpiece at this time is unknown.
The Burgundian treasury in Lille pays for the first of many journeys and "secret" missions to "distant lands" undertaken by Jan in the service of Philip the Good.

6 May 1432
The Ghent Altarpiece is presented to the public for the first time, at the occasion of the baptism of Philip the Good's son, Joos.

1433
Earliest mention of altarpiece. The Abbott of Saint Peter's Abbey in Ghent wrote that he went to Joos Vijd for permission to visit Vijd's altarpiece, and was allowed to but only if he paid 18 shillings and six-pence entry fee.

Is this the world's most desired real object?



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1794

I'll take that
one...and
that
one...check,
all of'em



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1816. The 1/2 Theft







