

King of the Confessors: A New Appraisal

By Thomas Hoving

King of the Confessors has three main protagonists: a magnificent cross, intricately carved from walrus ivory in the 12th century; Topic Ante Mimara, the shady Yugoslav owner of the cross; and Thomas Hoving, in 1963 a curatorial assistant at the Metropolitan Museum, who was determined at all costs to acquire the cross for the Museum. Its main secondary character is James Rorimer, then Director of the Museum, whom Hoving had to persuade to pay the \$600,000 which Mimara was demanding for the cross.

Adopting the style of a thriller - which upset some strait-laced critics of the first edition - Hoving tells a gripping story of his dealings with Mimara and Rorimer as he tried to acquire the cross, and gives a no less intriguing account of his attempts to discover the origin of the cross itself and understand its complex iconography. In revising the book for this new edition, he draws upon new sources which make the story of its acquisition even more exciting, and adds significantly to his account of the cross's origin and iconography.

The Author

After receiving his Ph.D. in Art History from Princeton, Thomas Hoving served as a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in 1967–1977 as the museum's director. Following that he was TV correspondent and arts editor for the ABC news program 20/20 and, in 1981–1991, editor-in chief of Connoisseur magazine. His many publications include *The Art of Dan Namingha*, *Art for Dummies*, *Greatest Works of Art in Western Civilization* and *False Impressions: The Search of Big Time Art Fakes*.

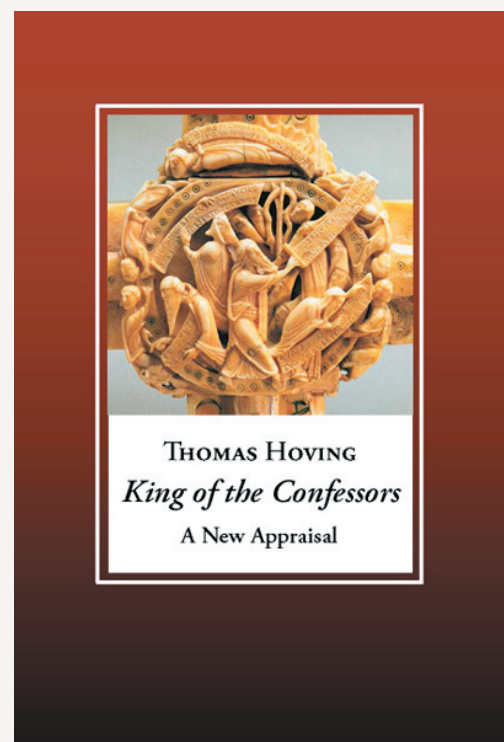
“ A remarkable tale of international espionage, art history and museum one-upmanship. ”

New York Times

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