

## Ambassadors Extras

### The Maths Book

The specific text featured in the painting is Peter Apian's 'New and Reliable Instruction Book of Calculation for Merchants.'

The book begins with the word "Dividirt" meaning "Let division be made."

### The Floor

On the floor based on Westminster Abbey, an inscription refers to the 'macrocosm' – a reference to the universe and humanity's contrastingly small place within it.

### The Celestial Globe

The heavenly globe is by Johann Schoner, a leading astronomer of the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and often produced as part of a pair, thus it is accompanied by a terrestrial globe here.

### The Liberal Arts

The study of seven Liberal Arts made up a Master's Degree in Medieval times: **geometry, music, architecture, astronomy, arithmetic** and for a Bachelor's Degree: **grammar, rhetoric, logic**; all of which are alluded to here as representing the subjects of the university curriculum.

### The Protagonist

De Dinteville spent most of 1533 in England, waiting for the coronation of Anne Boleyn. He was miserable in England, missed his family and the cold and damp made him ill. He wrote to his brother: 'I am the most melancholy, weary and wearisome ambassador that ever was seen.' Perhaps as an antidote to melancholy and the English weather, one of the first things he did on his arrival was to import 'thirty tuns of Gascon wine'.

To watch a short film about the work in close detail click [here](#).

Recommended reading from Nick Nelson:

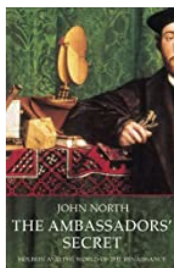


Holbein's Ambassadors: Making and Meaning (Making & Meaning S.)

by Susan Folster | 25 Nov 1997

★★★★★ ∨ 7

Paperback



The Ambassadors' Secret: Holbein and the World of the Renaissance

by John North | 2 Sep 2004

★★★★★ ∨ 11

Paperback

Hardcover