Young Man Holding a Book
The heart-shaped book this sitter holds is probably a prayer book; he is depicted before a view of the church of Sainte Gudule in Brussels, where a mass is performed by a priest in the background. The man's identity is unknown, but he may have been a member of a confraternity or guild with a particular devotion to Saint Augustine, whose symbolic attribute was a heart surmounted by a flame. It is possible this formed the right wing of a devotional diptych; as such, the shape of the book would echo the open form of two joined, arch-shaped panels.
### Object Type / Material
- **Oil paint (2,081)**
- **Paintings (13,355)**

### Geographic Location
- **Europe (185,176)**
- **Netherlands (9,266)**

### Date / Era
- **A.D. 1400–1600 (26,601)**
Identifier mma_young_man_holding_a_book_437030. Medium Oil on wood. Provenance Leopold Friedrich Franz, Herzog von Anhalt, gothisches Haus, Wörlitz (d. 1817; acquired from "an aged painter at Lille"), Herzogen von Anhalt, gothisches Haus, Wörlitz, and Schloß, Dessau (until at least 1926), [Knoedler, New York, by 1928, sold to Harkness], Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Harkness, New York (1928–his d. 1940), Mrs. Edward S. (Mary Stillman) Harkness, New York (1940–d.