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**The Cover**

In his "Treatise on Painting" the German painter and engraver Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) noted that the world goes without an "artistic painter" for 200 or 300 years, mainly because the talent is not recognized and nurtured. That he knew himself to be this occasional artist is evident from his first self-portrait, done in silverpoint when he was 13 years old. The decisive moment, however, came some ten years later, when he visited Venice for the first time. Previously trained in the Gothic style of the north, he was dazzled by what the Italians were doing. He returned to his native Nuremberg determined to bring the Renaissance north.

Although Dürer is best known for his large output of woodcuts and copper engravings ("The Four Horsemen" of *The Apocalypse* and *Melencolia I* being probably the most widely acclaimed), he also did a number of paintings. *Lot and His Daughters* (cover) is the reverse of a wooden panel entitled *Madonna and Child*, which was done for the Haller family in Nuremberg. The Old Testament scene of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was a popular one in Dürer's time. For the artist it was an opportunity to show off his virtuosity in handling the difficult problems of fire and water; for the illiterate viewer it was a graphic

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