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“The Second New Year” was painted by Mary Cassatt (1845 – 1926). Cassatt, an American artist, was the daughter of a wealthy Philadelphia businessman. She went to Paris to study and never returned. Most of her paintings are of mothers and children, although she herself never married. This lovely painting shows an older sibling handing a toy to her younger brother. We all know that sibling relations are never this serene at all times, but we can always encourage the sharing and love so beautifully shown here. (This painting is reproduced with the permission of the Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT).

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