
CHRISTMAS CATALOG

2021



100 Selected Facsimiles



ZIEREIS FACSIMILES

ZIEREIS FACSIMILES

Christmas Catalog 2021



Dear Readers,

Once again this year, we would like to present you, our loyal customers, with a selection of particularly beautiful and rare facsimiles for the Christmas season.

This time, these include **sought-after rarities** such as the Vienna Dioscorides, the Coronation Gospels of the Holy Roman Empire, or the Worms Machsor. We have selected no less than **100 works from our collection** for you, which you can acquire at a special price on this occasion.

Browse through our offer at your leisure, but please do not hesitate too long:
All facsimile editions listed here are single items!

Best Regards from Regensburg,

 *Christina Ziereis*

Vienna Dioscorides

Cod. Vindob. Med. gr. 1 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



Rarity!

A milestone of medicine written 1500 years ago in Byzantium: the largest and most influential work on herbal medicine in history

Istanbul (Turkey) – ca. 512

1

An illuminated Byzantine manuscript with almost 500 illustrations of plants and animals, commissioned ca. 512, probably by Princess Juliana Anikia (462–527/8)

2

The primary work by the physician and botanist Pedanius Dioscorides (ca. 40–90) is appended by numerous other classical works

3

It bears traces of continuous use by Greek, Latin, Turkish, Oriental, and Jewish physicians

THE MANUSCRIPT

One of the most precious late classical illuminated manuscripts is an herbarium produced in Constantinople at the beginning of the 6th century, which is called the Vienna Dioscorides after its current place of conservation. This codex describes numerous efficacious herbs as well as poisonous animals and birds; . It is illustrated by 392 full-page miniatures and 87 smaller miniatures embedded in the text, the majority of which are dedicated to plants, with 66 devoted to poisonous animals and 47 of which illustrate various bird species. These miniatures represent excellent copies of late Hellenistic-Roman models and are priceless not least because the antique originals have been lost. It is no wonder that the manuscript was declared a UNESCO Memory of the World Document in 1998...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1965–1970

- 984 pages / 38.0 × 31.0 cm
- 392 full-page pictures and 87 pictures within the text
- White Leather on wooden board. All folios are cut according to the original
- Commentary: German



Regularly 9,980-€

7,799 €
(like new)



Vienna Dioscorides

Dedication Miniature

The Vienna Dioscorides is a fundamental work of herbal medicine and a fine testimony of the Byzantine art of illumination in Late Antiquity. We are able to date the completion of this manuscript to the year 512 and trace it to a workshop in Constantinople thanks to the dedication miniature. It shows the patron of the manuscript, Princess Julia Anikia, being presented with the codex by the citizens of Constantinople.

Princess Julia is receiving this gift as an act of gratitude for her support of the Theotokos Church in the Honoratae quarter. Eight smaller scenes surrounding her portrait depict her support of the arts and architecture of the imperial capital. The eight pointed star that makes up the frame is depicted as though it is woven like a rope.

Schätze der Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana – Biblica

Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



From the holdings of the papal library: a collection of 12 single leaves from splendid biblical manuscripts

Paris (France); Florence (Italy) and others – 4th–15th century

Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2011

- Twelve single leaves under passepartout
- Box with a reproduction of the famous Paschalis crucifix dating from the 9th century
- 1,995 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 1,698 €

379 €
(like new)

Ambrosian Iliad

Cod. F. 205 P. Inf. — Biblioteca Ambrosiana (Milan, Italy)



Epic images of fierce battles and impressive architectures: the only preserved miniatures of the Iliad from Late Antiquity

Alexandria (Egypt) – Around 500

1

This Homer fragment from ca. 500 is one of only three surviving literary manuscripts from Late Antiquity

2

52 fascinating miniatures with a variety of compositions can be found on the landscape-oriented sheets

3

Battles, including depictions of single combat, are contrasted with more tranquil architectural scenes

Schätze der Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana – Litterae

Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



From the holdings of the Papal Library: a collection of 12 single leaves from splendid literary manuscripts

Paris (France); Florence (Italy) and others – 4th–15th century

Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2011

- Twelve single leaves under passepartout
- Box decorated with a relief reproduction in gilt brass of the circular astrological table (Byzantine Ptolemy manuscript, 8th–9th century)
- 1,995 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 1,698 €

379 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Hiding behind the term Ambrosian Iliad are 51 fragments of a large-format parchment manuscript of Homer's Iliad, which was manufactured in Egyptian Alexandria ca. 500. Of particular importance are the 58 miniatures, which boast an enormous variety of compositional schemes. Sensational single combat, as well as dramatic battle scenes with complex figures can be found. Unfortunately, these depictions are the only parts to survive from the illustrated ancient edition of Homer's work. Along with the Vergilus Vaticanus and Vergilius Romanus, it is one of only three surviving manuscripts of classical literature from antiquity...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Ediciones Grial

Valencia, 2009

- 52 pages / 18.6 × 22.0 cm
- 52 miniatures
- compiled in an album. Each fragment sheet can be detached from the frame to view both sides.
- 800 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 3,690 €

2,799 €
(like new)

Coronation Gospels of the Holy Roman Empire

SCHK.XIII,18 — Kunsthistorisches Museum, Weltliche Schatzkammer (Vienna, Austria)



Rarity!

Part of the Imperial Insignia, written in gold ink on purple parchment: each German emperor swore his oath with his hand on this book

Court School of Charlemagne, Aachen (Germany) – Shortly before 800

1

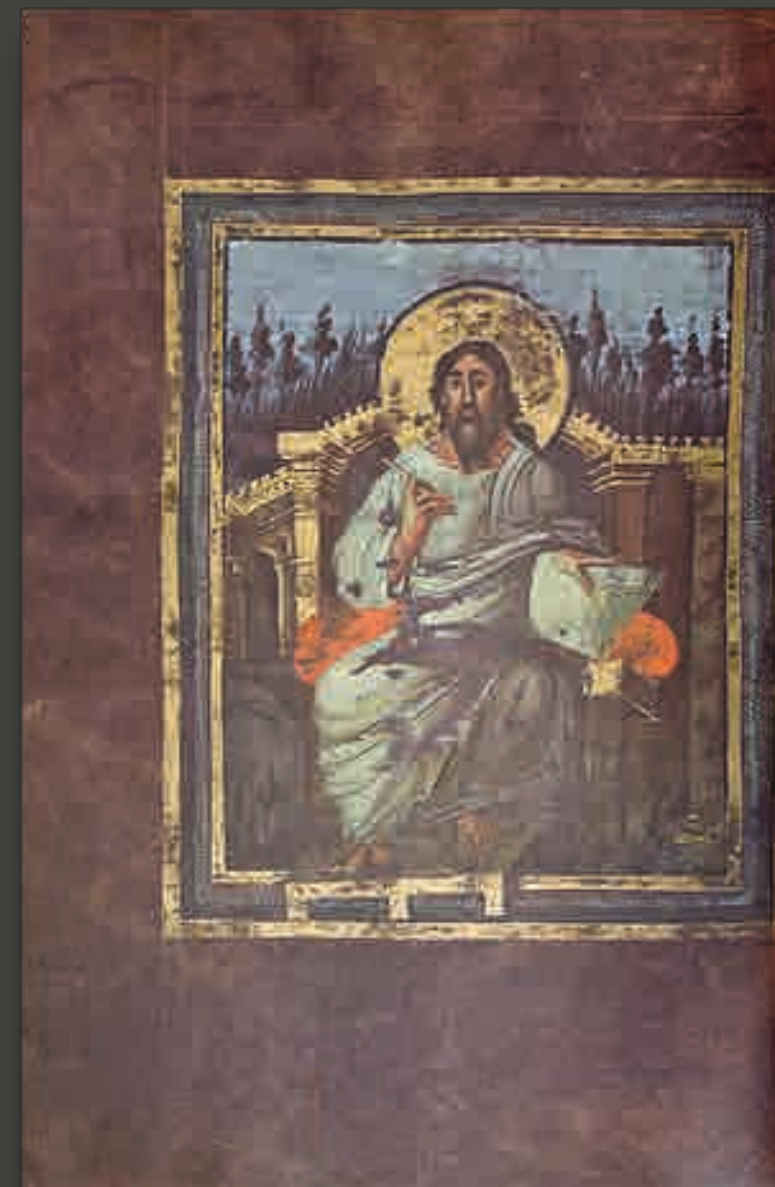
A crown jewel of the Roman-German Emperors was created ca. 800 at the behest of Charlemagne (742–814)

2

The Gospel text is recorded in gold and silver ink on purple parchment alongside Evangelist portraits

3

The golden cover is a Late Gothic work by the master smith Hans von Reutlingen (1492–1524), which was added ca. 1500



THE MANUSCRIPT

The Coronation Gospels of the Holy Roman Empire, also known as the Vienna Coronation Gospels, represents a highpoint of Carolingian manuscript art. This work is centrally important, as it is one of the imperial crown jewels on which any of the Roman-German Kings must take their coronation oath. It is opulently appointed and arranged in an evangelistary fashion. Sixteen canonical panels, four evangelical paintings, and other artistic jewelry adorn the grandly crafted calligraphy, all of which is crowned by a lavishly expensive and artful cover. The masterfully crafted golden cover is a work Late Gothic goldsmithing by Hans von Reutlingen, who created 700 years later in the 15th Century in order to emphasize the significance of the Coronation Gospels...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Munich, 2012



- 472 pages / 34.0 × 26.5 cm
- 16 canon tables, 4 full-page evangelist portraits, and 4 large decorative initials
- Silver- and gold-plated cover
- 333 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 29,890-€

14,999 €
(like new)

Coronation Gospels of the Holy Roman Empire

Portrait of John the Evangelist

During their coronations, candidates would swear their solemn oaths by laying their hand upon the Gospel of John. Such Evangelist portraits were a defining feature of Carolingian art, mixing Insular influences with Byzantine ones. This miniature is believed to have been made by a monk named Demetrius who, judging by the design, must have been classically trained in Italy.

Usually depicted as either a white-haired old man or a beardless youth, John is depicted as a man in his prime here. He faces the beholder directly and is seated in front of a classical architecture wearing a toga. He holds a pen or stylus in his right hand, which is gilded along with his halo, the frame, and the background, while holding his Gospel in his left hand.

Treasures from the Bavarian State Library

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich, Germany)



A portfolio of ten splendid miniature pages representing the most beautiful medieval manuscripts kept safe in Munich

Salzburg (Austria); Mainz (Germany) and others
– 9th–16th century

Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 1999

- Ten leaves under passepartout
- Decorated box
- 1,495 copies
- Commentary: German

–1,490-€
299 €
(like new)

Leiden Aratea

Ms. Voss. Lat. Q. 79 — Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit (Leiden, Netherlands)



At the behest of the emperor: the ancient text on the stars by Aratus of Soli as a Carolingian masterpiece for the son of Charlemagne

Aachen (Germany) / Metz (France) – After 825

1

Commissioned sometime after 825 by Louis the Pious (778–840), the second Holy Roman Emperor

2

The text by the ancient Greek poet Aratus of Soli (ca. 315–240 BC) is rooted in Greek mythology

3

The manuscript is simultaneously a Carolingian work of art with 39 miniatures and a guidebook for navigation

Lorsch Rotulus

Ms. Barth. 179 — Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)



Probably commissioned by Louis the German and the pride of the city of Frankfurt today: the only surviving scroll of the Carolingian period with the names of over 500 saints

Lorsch (Germany) – Third quarter of the 9th century / Middle of 11th century

ADEVA

Graz, 1994

- 1 Rolle / 257.0 × 23.5 cm
- Silver and gold ink, decorative interlace borders
- Scroll protected in a solid book case
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 390-€
279 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Aratea is an astronomical textbook, which is oriented on the ancient example of the text Phaenomena by the poet Aratos of Soloi. The work comprises 200 pages with 39 large illustrations, which explain the planets, celestial phenomena, and weather signs. As in the Phaenomena, the figures and forms of ancient Greek mythology serve the author of the Aratea as the foundation of his astronomy. Shimmering gold leaf contrasts with dark blue backgrounds in the miniatures, which are based on ancient models and are of extraordinary quality. The work is a milestone of both miniature painting as well as astronomy and astrology that enjoyed popularity over the centuries, as evidenced by its numerous translations. It was commissioned by Louis the Pious, son and heir of Emperor Charlemagne and a...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1987

- 200 pages / 22.5 × 20.0 cm
- 39 full-page miniatures
- napped natural leather binding corresponding to the recent binding of the original book
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 1,490-€
999 €
(like new)

The Foundations of the True Properties of Remediesmedies

Cod. A. F. 340 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



Ancient wisdom about the art of healing: the oldest preserved manuscript in Persian, written by the Afghan physician and pharmacologist Abu Mansur

Herat (Afghanistan) – Between 960 and 980

ADEVA

Graz, 1972

- 438 pages / 19.0 × 15.0 cm
- Half leather
- Commentary: English, Latein

Regularly 580 €

299 €
(like new)

Treasures from the British Library

British Library (London, United Kingdom)



Ten centuries of illumination: a collection of miniature pages from the finest medieval manuscripts in the British Library, the largest national library in the world

Paris (France); Bologna (Italy) and others – 7th–16th century

Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 2002

- Ten miniatures under passepartout
- Decorated box
- 1,995 copies
- Commentary: German

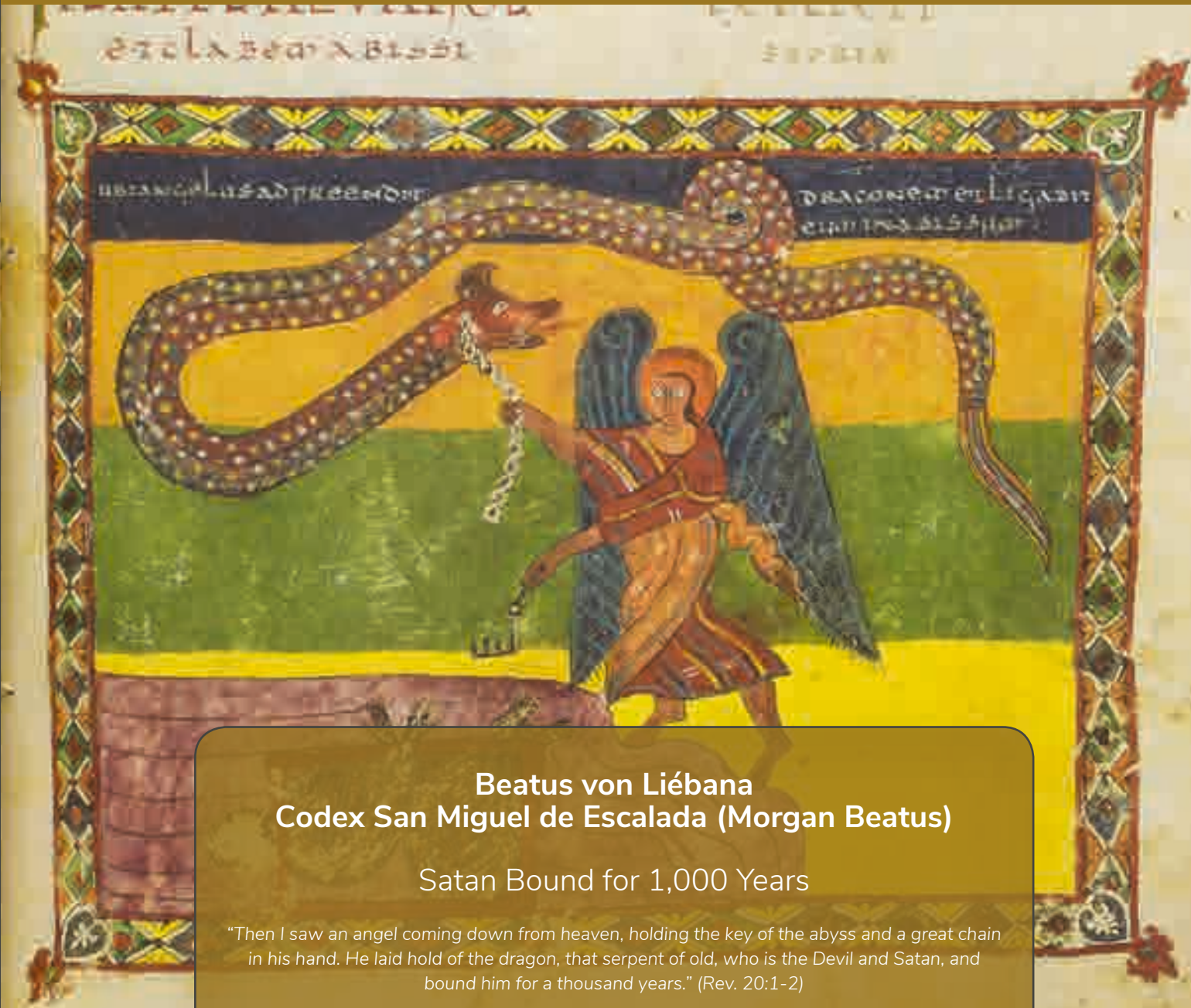
Regularly 1,480 €

249 €
(like new)

Briefly Explained: Beatus Manuscripts

Beatus manuscripts, illuminated codices presenting the Commentary on the Apocalypse by the 8th century Spanish monk and theologian Saint Beatus of Liébana are among the most fascinating codices produced during the Middle Ages. They are considered to be a genre unto themselves within the larger corpus of splendid medieval manuscripts of the Apocalypse, as the Book of Revelation was more commonly referred to during the Middle Ages.

The commentary by Beatus has survived to the present in 27 manuscripts, with new specimens being discovered in recent years. They were primarily produced in Northern Spain and are of special importance for Spanish art history, although Beatus manuscripts were also produced in France and Italy. The fantastic imagery often appears convoluted to modern people, but an eye attuned to the aesthetics and symbolism of the Middle Ages can easily decipher the illumination of these significant works of art.



Beatus von Liébana
Codex San Miguel de Escalada (Morgan Beatus)

Satan Bound for 1,000 Years

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” (Rev. 20:1-2)

Satan being thrown into the Abyss for 1,000 years is one of the most dramatic events in the Book of Revelation, and is depicted here in a manuscript exemplary of both the Beatus tradition and Mozarabic art. The selection of colors had symbolic significance for a medieval audience that is lost on modern people, e.g. multicolored backgrounds representing Heaven, Earth, and Hell. With unblinking Byzantine-style eyes, the angel solemnly leads the serpent to his prison with a chain rendered in silver.

Beatus of Liébana - Valcavado Codex

433 — Biblioteca Histórica de Santa Cruz - Universidad de Valladolid (Valladolid, Spain)



Preserved in Valcavado until the 16th century: one of the best preserved Beatus manuscripts and „one of the most impressive Spanish works of art“

Monastery of Santa María in Valcavado (Spain)
– June 8 to September 8, 970

1

This Beatus codex is considered to be “one of the most impressive works of art from Spain”

2

The patron, artists, and even the exact dates of the manuscript's production are recorded

3

Stored in Valcavado until the 16th century, it is one of the best-preserved Beatus specimens

Beatus of Liébana - Saint-Sever Codex

Ms. Lat. 8878 — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



With influences from African, Islamic, Oriental, and Insular art: the only Beatus manuscript created in France

Saint-Sever Monastery, Saint-Sever (France) – ca. 1038

1

A highlight of 11th century French art and one of the most grandiose works of illumination

2

The work encompasses 112 miniatures, some double-page, and 1,400 colored initials

3

The miniatures indicate a knowledge of African, Islamic, Oriental, and Insular art

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Valcavado Beatus, also known as the Valladolid Beatus, is considered to be “one of the most impressive works of art from Spain”. Originating from the year 970, the manuscript is an impressive codex from the Monastery of Santa María in Valcavado, where it resurfaced during the 17th century. It is counted among the most important Spanish works of art and illustrates the famous commentary on the Book of Revelation by Beatus of Liébana with gorgeous miniatures, some of them spanning a double page, which have a distinct and unusual color palette. With that, the Valcavado Beatus stands firmly in the traditions of marvelous, large-format, richly illustrated Beatus Manuscripts of the 10th century. Also worthy of note in this marvelous specimen of the medieval Beatus tradition of...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Testimonio

Madrid, 2000

- 460 pages / 35.5 × 24.5 cm
- 97 miniatures, some on two pages and a large number on whole pages
- Hand-stitched brown goatskin binding imprinted with a bird motif
- 980 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 5,490 €

4,299 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Beatus of Liébana - Saint-Sever Codex is counted among the highlights of 11th century French illumination and is one of the all-time most grandiose works of illumination. The 112 miniatures, some of them even double-page, and the over 1,400 colored initials of the nearly 600-page text are amazing. The codex contains the Apocalypse commentary by the Asturian monk Beatus of Liébana as well as expositions on the Evangelists and their writing, a genealogy of Christ, and St. Jerome's commentary of the Book on Daniel. Aside from the overwhelming visual adornment illustrating the fascinating Book of Revelation concerning the end of the world, above all it is the fact the Saint-Sever Beatus represents the only French Beatus manuscript that makes the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Edilan

Madrid, 1984

- 592 pages / 36.7 × 28.6 cm
- 112 miniatures illuminated in gold and more than 1,400 colour initials
- Bound in red leather
- 2,000 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 3,980 €

2,499 €
(like new)

Ripoll Bible

Vat.lat. 5729 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



Stored today in the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana: one of the most richly illustrated Spanish Bibles of the 11th century with 300 miniatures

Catalonia (Spain) – 1020

1

This is one of two complete codices produced by the monks of the Monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll

2

The Bibles were completed sometime ca. 1020 and contain 300+ miniatures by a team of artists

3

Guifré de Ripoll may have been the “team leader” and imparted his scenes with a sense of movement and dynamism

Codex of Vyšehrad

XIV A 13 — National Library of the Czech Republic (Prague, Czech Republic)



Created by a group of Regensburg book artists: a masterfully illuminated manuscript celebrating the coronation of Duke Vratislaus II as the first king of Bohemia in 1085

Bohemia (Czech Republic) – 1085

1

A group of artists from the Regensburg region of Bavaria was imported to mark the occasion

2

60+ miniatures as well as elaborate initials and gorgeous frames adorn the Biblical texts

3

It is a splendid witness to the power struggles of the 12th century between Pope and Emperor

THE MANUSCRIPT

This manuscript represents one half of a two-volume Bible created ca. 1202 in the Monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll. It is a fantastic artifact of Catalanian illumination containing 300+ miniatures altogether created by a team of talented artists lead by the monk Guifré de Ripoll. Some scenes are depicted in primary colors, while others are uncolored and reveal the hand of a skilled yet anonymous master...



THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

Vatican City, 2002

- 133 pages / 57.5 x 39.5 cm
- 300 miniatures
- Red Capra-leather binding
- 850 copies
- Commentary: German, English, French, Spanish, Italian

Regularly 3,290-€

1,899 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

In the year 1085, Vratislaus II was crowned the first King of Bohemia, an event marked by the creation of this incredible Romanesque manuscript. The Vyšehrad Codex is the grandest of four manuscripts created by a group of artists, presumably trained in Regensburg, who were brought to Prague to commemorate the founding of a new kingdom, which was a tool of the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV in his ongoing power struggle with the papacy. More than 60 miniatures adorn the Biblical texts in addition to elaborate initials and gorgeous frames that make this a true masterpiece of Romanesque art. The artwork is characterized by thick outlines filled in with pigments of red, pink, green, blue, purple, and brown presented before backgrounds with gold leaf...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Pragueopress

Prague, 1970

- 108 folios / 41.5 x 34.0 cm
- 64 full-page miniatures
- Book cover coated with floral embroidered fabric; back cover and spine in white leather
- Commentary: German, English, Tschechisch, French a.o.

Regularly 2,980-€

1,899 €
(like new)

Vita Mathildis

Vat. lat. 4922 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



The famous Investiture Controversy was settled at her castle: the life of Mathilda of Canossa in luminous miniatures

Monastery of Saint Apollonius in Canossa (Italy)
– 1115

Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1984

- 180 pages / 21.0 × 16.0 cm
- 8 miniatures and many initials
- Red leather
- 2,000 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 980-€

399 €
(like new)

St. Petersburg Bestiary

Rf. Lat.Q.v.V.1 — National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg, Russia)



One of the earliest Gothic bestiaries, now preserved in St. Petersburg: an English master manuscript with realistic depictions of animals on luminous backgrounds

Crowland Abbey, Lincolnshire, England (United Kingdom) – Late 12th century

1

Moralizing and instructive bestiaries were among the most popular manuscripts of the Middle Ages

2

This 12th century English manuscript is one of the first Gothic specimens thereof

3

The realistic animal representations can be found on luminous gold backgrounds typical for the time

Mosa Psalter Fragment

Codex 78 A 6 — Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin, Germany)



A masterpiece that, from today's perspective, has almost fortunately remained unfinished: the unification of classical, Carolingian and Ottonian traditions in a magnificent manuscript fragment

France or Germany – mid-12th century

ADEVA

Graz, 1974

- 20 pages / 24.9 × 15.6 cm
- Every page is decorated with at least one miniature, 29 in total including 1 full-page miniature
- Parchment binding. All folios are cut according to the original
- Commentary: German

Regularly 580-€

249 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The literary genre of the bestiary is among the most beloved book genres of the medieval world. This is a particularly richly illuminated piece of animal literature, which moralistically described creatures from both the animal kingdom and the world of fantasy. These illuminated manuscripts were of especially high importance in 12th and 13th century England. The St. Petersburg Bestiary is one of the most beautiful and precious examples of these codices. It is decorated to an exceedingly rich degree with 114 colorful miniatures, most of which are set against a lofty gold leaf background, including 4 full-page miniatures. In addition to the depictions of animals, the work is furnished with an image cycle of the history of creation. Although clearly English in manufacture, little is known about the origins of the manuscript and even determining...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



AyN Ediciones

Madrid, 2002

- 182 pages / 20.0 × 14.5 cm
- 114 miniatures (4 of them full-page), most of them with gold background
- Parchment binding with four elegant bands
- 995 copies
- Commentary: German, English



Regularly 3,490-€

1,499 €
(like new)

Guta-Sintram Codex

Ms. 37 — Bibliothèque du Grand Séminaire (Strasbourg, France)



Augustinian rules, medicine, and prayers: the result of an extraordinary collaboration between a canoness and a canon

Marbach Abbey, Upper Alsace (France) – 1154

1

This manuscript is the result of an extraordinary collaboration between Guta von Schwarzenhann and Canon Sintram

2

At the heart of the mid-12th century manuscript lies 35 splendid double-page calendar illustrations

3

The prayer book for Schwarzenhann Cloister also records deceased abbots, provosts, nuns, etc.

Illustrated Bible of The Hague

KB, 76 F5 — Koninklijke Bibliotheek den Haag (The Hague, Netherlands)



Miniatures with a polished gold background in the Byzantine style: a French picture Bible from the 12th century with criticism of the Crusades

Benedictine Abbey of St. Bertin (France) – 1190–1200; Added text: 1290–1300

1

This splendid 12th century manuscript exhibits clear Byzantine influences like burnished gold backgrounds

2

Imagery from the Old and New Testaments is appended by a reproachful text concerning the Second Crusade

3

The highly-coveted manuscript was owned by King William I of the Netherlands (1772–1843) and other bibliophiles

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Guta-Sintram Codex is a compilation resulting from an extraordinary collaboration that gives a unique glimpse into the world of a Romanesque cloister. It was completed in 1154 by Canoness Guta von Schwarzenhann and Canon Sintram, both members of the Augustinian Order of the Marbach Abbey in Alsace. Next to the prayer texts, legal decisions, and important information about monastic life, the work gives medical advice and is especially famous for its lavishly adorned, humorous monthly calendar. It is richly adorned with 230 colored miniatures including 3 full-page miniatures, 26 historiated initials, and numerous smaller initials including 35 double-page illustrations decorated with large initials, banderoles, zodiac signs, and groups of people...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1982

- 326 pages / 35.5 × 27.0 cm
- 230 colored miniatures including 3 full-page miniatures, 26 historiated initials, numerous smaller initials
- Cowhide binding
- 930 copies
- Commentary: German, French

Regularly 3,880-€
1,999 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

This magnificent 12th century manuscript originates from the Benedictine Abbey of St. Bertin in the northwest of France but is strongly influenced by the Byzantine artistic tradition. Due to the presence of some texts that are critical of the Second Crusade and the Roman Papacy, it is believed that the manuscript was originally commissioned by Byzantine Emperor Manuel I Komnenos. It is adorned with 45 full-page miniatures and 172 illustrations altogether with scenes from the Old and New Testaments as well as a collection of saints' vitae. They are remarkable for their extremely vivid color scheme, splendid gold figures, and flat representations in colorful decorative frames. The highly coveted manuscript passed through the hands of various bibliophiles...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Orbis Mediaevalis

Madrid, 2011

- 94 pages / 25.5 × 16.5 cm
- 172 colored images in 45 full-page miniatures
- Green velvet with two silver clasps bearing Greek crosses
- 695 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 4,500-€
2,499 €
(like new)

History of Alexander the Great

Ms. 11,040 — Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique (Brussels, Belgium)



Created for King Philip IV of France: 100 grandiose miniatures on the history of Alexander the Great and a highlight of 13th century French book illumination

Belgium / Netherlands – 13th century

1

Made in Brussels, this impressive medieval prose manuscript details the story of Alexander the Great (356–323 BC)

2

Created for the French King Phillip IV (1268–1314) "The Fair", its a high point of 13th century French book painting

3

100 grandiose miniatures integrated in the text depict subjects ranging from architecture to battle scenes

THE MANUSCRIPT

Alexander the Great was regarded by the princes of the Middle Ages as the ideal of the ancient ruler. Manuscripts illuminating the adventures of the conqueror of what was perhaps the first world empire in history were correspondingly popular. The Brussels manuscript of the Alexander romance relating the history of Alexander the Great, one of the most important prose works of the Middle Ages, is counted among the most impressive testimonies to this veneration. The codex was made for King Philip IV of France, called the Fair. This is also evident in the magnificent artistic decoration of the Old French text. Miniatures of the highest quality, preciously designed with abundant gold and silver, illustrate the adventurous tales from the life of Alexander the Great. With its wonderful miniatures and...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Patrimonio Ediciones

Valencia, 2007

- 180 pages / 24.0 × 18.0 cm
- 100 illuminated miniatures on a gold and silver backgrounds
- Leather covered wooden book covers with bronze fittings and clasps
- 999 copies
- Commentary: German, English, Spanish



Regularly 7,500 €

4,999 €
(like new)



History of Alexander the Great

Alexander's Battle with Giants

In Alexandrian romances, the hero not only fights the armies of various nations, but also leads his warriors against hosts of beasts and monsters as he goes beyond the boundaries of the known world. This bas-de-page miniature features a gold leaf background and is set within a subtly patterned frame of blue and red.

The race of giants is depicted as being taller than Alexander's men are on horseback, tall as trees in fact, and their oversized feet exceed the limits of the frame. Armed with clubs and dressed in crude garments, they are depicted as oafish and bearded with unkempt hair. Tales of Alexander fighting giants are probably rooted in his historic battles with the Celts, who were indeed tall compared to the Greeks, but not giants.

Legends of Saint Margaret and Saint Agnes

ms. Ricc. 453 — Biblioteca Riccardiana (Florence, Italy)



Created by the Gerona Master: elegant Gothic figures and influences from Byzantine illumination in a golden masterpiece

Bologna (Italy) – Late 13th century

1

The 13th century manuscript by the Gerona Master splendidly conveys the legends of both saintly virgins

2

The so-called Gerona Master and his circle produced some of the most coveted Gothic manuscripts

3

Byzantine influences like burnished gold backgrounds blend with elegant Gothic figures in the miniatures

Leaves from a Psalter by William de Brailes

MS 330|MS. M.913 — Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge, United Kingdom) / Morgan Library & Museum (New York, USA)



Created by one of the greatest masters of English illumination: seven parchment fragments of a lost masterpiece by William de Brailes

Oxford (United Kingdom) – ca. 1240

1

William de Brailes (active 1230–1260) is considered to be the unsurpassed master of 13th century English illumination

2

Unfortunately, one of his most outstanding works only survives in a few fragments: a psalter from Oxford

3

The miniature of the Last Judgement contains an extremely rare self-portrait of de Brailes holding a scroll

THE MANUSCRIPT

This manuscript of the Legends of Saint Margaret and Saint Agnes was made by the so-called Gerona Master in the late-13th century Italy. Both saints were virgins and devoted Christians and both died a martyr's death for resisting the lust of powerful men and did not waiver from their faith. As such, The work conveys the legends of both saintly virgins and is adorned by 33 full-page miniatures with gold backgrounds and innumerable filigree capitals in blue and red colors. It is clearly influenced by the Byzantine style of illumination, which was often imitated in 13th century art including the Gerona Master and his circle of artists. Vivid, colorful scenes peopled by elegant figures with expressive faces and gestures depict the lives of the saints as well as the manner in which they were...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ArtCodex

Modena, 2008

- 122 pages / 14.5 × 10.3 cm
- 33 full-page miniatures and innumerable filigree capitals
- Blue velvet with gold and silver fittings, lapis lazuli stone on the cover
- 999 copies
- Commentary: Italian



Regularly 4,900-€

1,999 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

William de Brailes is considered to be the unsurpassed master of 13th century English illumination. In his works, unbelievable inventive power and masterful artistry meet deep faith and precious materials. Unfortunately, one of his most outstanding works only exists today in a few fragments: a psalter from Oxford, originating ca. 1240. Only seven pages, stored today in Cambridge and New York, offer a glimpse into the glory of William de Brailes' art. As an additional exceptional feature, the master immortalized himself in a minute portrait in one of the illustrations!

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



The Folio Society

London, 2012

- 7 parchment leaves under passepartout / 22.1 × 14.4 cm
- 7 leaves with full-page illuminations on golden background
- Decorative case
- 480 copies
- Commentary: English



Regularly 1,980-€

1,299 €
(like new)

Goslar Gospels

Ms. 2353 — Stadtarchiv Goslar (Goslar, Germany)



Romanesque, Gothic, and Byzantine elements: a masterpiece of stylistic pluralism from Germany adorned with magnificent miniatures

Goslar (Germany) – ca. 1240

1

This large luxury manuscript was intended for use in church and other public displays to the faithful

2

Indicators point to Goslar Convent in Lower Saxony as a probable place of origin for the incredible codex

3

The text is a work of art in and of itself, the labor of a skilled scribe who masterfully executed the letters

Latin Moamin

K 4984 — Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna, Austria)



The template for his own famous falcon book: Emperor Frederick II's compilation of two Arabic teaching texts on the training and care of falcons and hunting dogs, adorned with gold initials

Italy – Around 1240

1

The learned Emperor Frederick II (1194–1250) had two Arabic falconry texts compiled and translated into Latin

2

It is filled with figural initials and served as a template for the falconry book that Frederick II wrote himself

3

More than a work of art, the text is a practical guide for the training and care of falcons and hunting dogs

THE MANUSCRIPT

One of the most exquisite creations preserved to this day from the Staufer period: the Goslar Gospels. This is a large luxury manuscript intended for use in church and other public displays to the faithful. A full-page miniature prefixes each Gospel along with a full-page initial made to give the beholder an overall impression of the text that follows, but Saint Luke, to whom history attributes the highest credibility among all the Evangelists, was assigned an additional initial and miniature page. The manuscript has 30 full-page miniatures, which are typically divided into two or more scenes, and incipit pages as well as numerous golden initials. The text is a work of art in itself, the labor of a skilled scribe who executed the letters with an instantly discernible mastery. Altogether, this...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1990

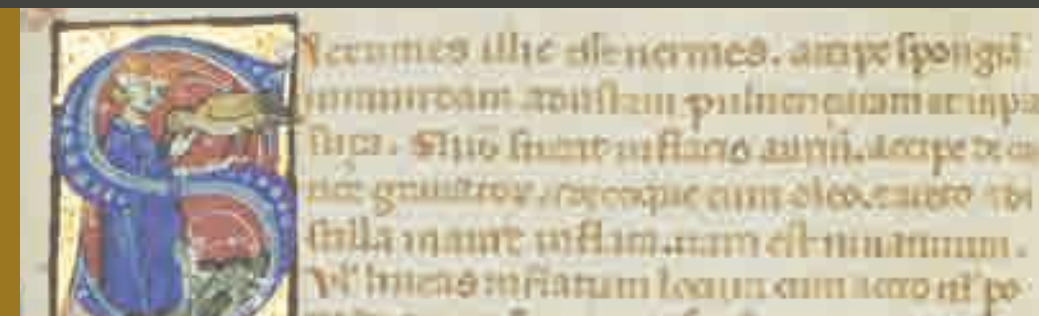
- 258 pages / 33.5 × 25.0 cm
- 30 masterful full-page miniatures and incipit pages, numerous golden initials
- Brown leather
- 300 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 5,790-€
1,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Alongside his own famous falcon book, the so-called Latin Moamin is further proof of Emperor Frederick II's fascination with the art of falconry. The emperor had the Arab treatise about hunting with falcons and dogs translated into Latin ca. 1240 and introduced his own ideas as well. A uniquely splendid edition of this manuscript created ca. 1275 is stored in Vienna, which is presented with lovely, thematic illustrations. It is a practical text divided into five books: the first three contain fundamental knowledge of falcons and falconry, the illnesses of birds, and their treatment while the 4th and 5th books are concerned with hunting dogs. 101 historiated initials illustrate the text with images of birds molting or hunting, always in cooperation with their handler, training and caring for sick falcons...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 2017

- 108 pages / 22.0 × 15.4 cm
- 101 historiated initials on golden ground
- Green velvet
- 381 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 3,980-€
1,499 €
(like new)

Morgan Crusader Bible

MS M,638 — Morgan Library & Museum (New York, USA) and others



Parchment
Edition!

From Louis the Saint to the Persian Shah to New York City: one of the most richly illuminated and famous manuscripts of the Middle Ages

Paris (France) – ca. 1250

1

A primary work of the French High Gothic and one of the most magnificent and famous manuscripts of the Middle Ages

2

The pure picture book illustrated the events of the Old Testament in 283 gorgeous and gilded miniatures

3

Commissioned in 1604 by King Louis the Saint (1214–70) as a gift to Shah Abbas and stored today in the Morgan Library in New York

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Morgan Crusader Bible is probably the most extraordinary work from the book collection of King Louis IX. It is a pure picture book illustrating the events of the Old Testament in 283 high-quality miniatures. This codex is famous the world over and has had several important owners who had explanatory commentaries append the pictures in Latin, Persian, Arabic, Judeo-Persian, and Hebrew. Its miniatures resemble the stained glass and mural paintings of the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, which was also commissioned by Louis IX, and dress the events in the clothing, armor, and weapons of the 13th century, making it a valuable source about contemporary life and warfare. The artfulness and masterful execution of the miniatures often contrasts with...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Scriptorium

Valencia, 2013

- 92 pages / 39.0 × 29.5 cm
- 283 miniatures in total including 92 full-page miniatures and 181 golden initials
- Leather over wooden boards
- 390 copies
- Commentary: English, Spanish



Regularly 19,700-€

9,999 €
(like new)



Morgan Crusader Bible

Saul Victorious, A Proven Leader

This is a gruesome masterpiece of the Gothic style and possibly the most famous image of medieval illumination. In 1 Samuel, an army of Ammonites under the command of King Nahash is besieging the Israelite city of Jabesh-Gilead. This scene depicts the moment when a relieving army commanded by Saul crashes into the rear of the Ammonites.

Wearing a crowned great helm and an orange tunic, Saul strikes the fleeing Nahash, cleaving his crown, and slaughter ensues as the Israelites inside the city pour out of the gates and hit the Ammonites from both sides. An archer in the tower aims at the only unharmed Ammonite and a trebuchet sends a boulder crashing into their ranks. Below, Saul is crowned and anointed by Samuel, who then celebrates the victory with sacrifices.

Hildesheim Golden Calendar

Cod. Guelf. 13 Aug. 2° — Herzog August Bibliothek (Wolfenbüttel, Germany)



A masterpiece of the so-called „jagged style“: golden miniatures and beautiful calendar medallions from the Benedictine monastery of St. Michael in Hildesheim

Benedictine Abbey, Hildesheim (Germany) – ca. 1250

1

This splendid early-Gothic manuscript originated in St. Michael's Benedictine Monastery, Hildesheim

2

The Zackenstil manuscript is counted among the masterpieces of 13th century Saxon illumination

3

The name of the magnificent calendar manuscript comes from the extensive use of gold leaf therein

The Homilies of Organyà

Ms. 289 — Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya (Barcelona, Spain)



An early testimony to Catalan culture: the oldest religious texts in the Catalan language

Tortosa Cathedral (Spain) – 13th century

1

This collection of six homilies is the oldest religious text in the Catalan language

2

It bears witness to the wide expansion of Catalan language and culture in the 13th century

3

The valuable artifact was rediscovered in the year 1904 at the church of St. Marie de Organyà

THE MANUSCRIPT

This masterpiece of the Zackenstil or “jagged style” is named for its magnificent miniatures and calendar medallions with shimmering, almost magical gold backgrounds. It originated ca. 1240/1250 in the famous scriptorium at Hildesheim's Benedictine Monastery of St. Michael, which produced some of the finest illuminated manuscripts of the period and is recognized today as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The manuscript contains an illustrated calendar in architectural frames with zodiac symbols as well as two full-page miniatures with five scenes from the life of Jesus Christ. Its décor is a mix of Byzantine, Romanesque, and early-Gothic influences from France and is distinguished by the highly stylized jagged or zig-zag arrangement of garment folds and contours. The Zackenstil represents...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Müller & Schindler

Simbach am Inn, 2003

- 16 pages / 30.9 × 22.5 cm
- 2 full-page miniatures and complete calendar with elaborately designed zodiac signs
- Lightbrown embossed leather
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German

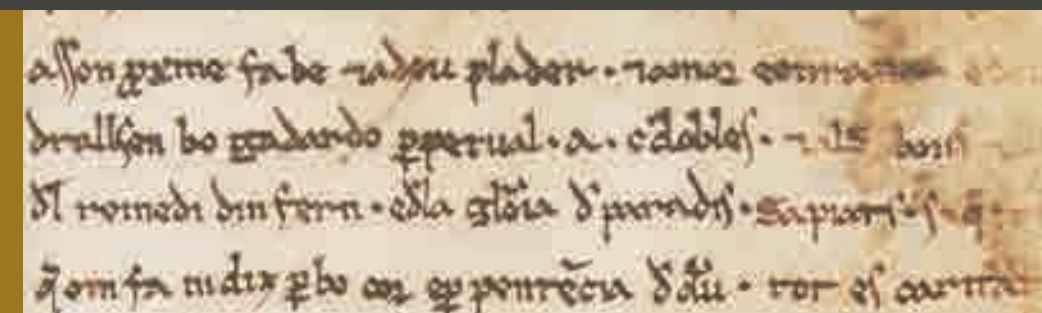
Regularly 980-€

599 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Manuscript 289 of the Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya in Barcelona, known as The Homilies of Organyà is a codex of historical significance: it is the first literary document in the Catalan language! The 13th century manuscript contains the text of six homilies on various religious themes, written in a splendidly lifelike and polished tone. This manuscript from the cathedral of Tortosa – discovered in the church of St. Marie de Organyà in 1904 – is the oldest and best-known surviving attestation of Catalan, which does not come from a legal text. It was likely commissioned by an unknown Augustinian, probably a capitular in the cathedral of Tortosa. The Homilies of Organyà bears witness to the spread of the Catalan language in 13th century Spain...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Millennium Liber

Madrid, 2010

- 16 pages / 17.5 × 12.0 cm
- Parchment binding
- 995 copies
- Commentary: English, Spanish

Regularly 2,400-€

899 €
(like new)

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Briefly Explained: Judaica

Judaism has one of the oldest written traditions in the world and medieval Hebrew manuscripts count among some of the most accomplished specimens of the great art of the Middle Ages, especially with respect to their masterful calligraphy. Unfortunately, a disproportionately small number of these works have survived into the present, but nonetheless, these works are invaluable to theologians, linguists, art historians, and cultural historians as well as those interested in the rich book culture of the Jewish people.

Most are religious texts like the Kennicot Bible, while others are more practical, like Hebrew translations of the Canon Medicinæ, a popular medical handbook. Some of these manuscripts even contain evidence of the nascent secular Jewish literary tradition that would emerge in the Early Modern Period! Few manuscripts are as densely imbued with artistic and historic significance as these magnificent specimens of medieval Jewish culture.



Rothschild Haggadah

Motzi Matzo and Maror

This artfully designed page integrates miniatures into the text in a manner that gives a feeling of progression from one stage of the Passover Seder to another. Here we see two of the most important parts of the ritualized meal: the Motzi Matzo or "blessing of the Matzah" (left) and the Maror or "bitter herbs" (right), which are in turn blessed and eaten.

Commissioned in 1479, this North-Italian Renaissance codex is an exemplary specimen of the Judaic manuscript tradition, which is distinguished in particular by its calligraphy: the neatly and cleverly arranged Hebrew text looks as though it were printed. Lifelike human figures with detailed facial features and natural gestures as well as the extensive use of gold leaf make this a masterpiece.

Worms Mahzor

MS 4° 781/1 — Jewish National and University Library (Jerusalem, Israel)



Rarity!

A prayer book in use for over 650 years: the oldest surviving Ashkenazi manuscript and an important source on Jewish life in the Middle Ages

Rhine Valley (Germany) – 1272

1

The oldest Ashkenazi manuscript is also a vital source on German Jewish life in the Middle Ages

2

This gloriously illuminated manuscript was used by the cantors of Worms for over 650 years

3

It is an important source on the vocalization and pronunciation of Hebrew in medieval Germany

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Mahzor of Worms is one of the most important sources for information on German Jewish life in the Middle Ages and is one of the oldest Ashkenazi manuscripts in existence. The 13th century liturgical prayer book was used on high holidays by the cantors of Worms for more than 650 years and is illuminated to an unusual extent for a book of that type and time. The artistic style is clearly influenced by Rhineland illumination, but the manuscript is even more significant for linguists than for art historians. This is because the text constitutes an important source for the research on vocalization and pronunciation of the Hebrew language in medieval Germany. Additionally, the Mahzor of Worms has helped researchers to cast light on the beginnings of German Jewish literature...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1985

- 454 pages / 40.0 × 31.0 cm
- Numerous decorative initials as well as figural representations of humans and animals
- Leather binding, on wood boards
- 330 copies
- Commentary: English, Hebräisch



Regularly 7,500-€

4,999 €
(like new)



Worms Mahzor

Deer Hunting Scene

Although the contents of this codex are primarily religious in nature, Hebrew manuscripts typically contained many depictions of animals, including animal hybrids. The text in red and black ink is masterfully executed and precisely arranged as though it were printed. In a minor hand above the thick black initials, notes written in Yiddish can be seen, some of the oldest in existence.

Titled "The Beloved Doe", the miniature at the top of the page shows a hunter blowing a horn and pursuing a deer with a pack of hounds, two of whom have chased the doe up a hill while the third approaches on a leash. The hunter is dressed in an orange tunic with a green hood and, upon closer examination, has the feet of a bird and the face of a dog.

Romance of the Rose of Berthaud d'Achy

Urb. lat. 376 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



The tender rose as a symbol for the woman: 93 golden miniatures illuminate what is perhaps the most famous allegorical romance novel of the Middle Ages

Paris (France) – ca. 1280

1

A famous love story was begun by Guillaume de Lorris ca. 1235 and was finished by Jean de Meung ca. 1280

2

Completely new narrative techniques were used in the first French story written in the first person

3

Calligraphy and 93 golden miniatures by Berthaud d'Achy, this manuscript is the most beautiful of the famous allegorical romance

The Book of Punishment and Documents of King Sancho IV

Ms 3995 (Vitr. 17,8) — Biblioteca Nacional de España (Madrid, Spain)



Inspiration for Picasso's *Guernica*: illuminated, didactic stories about proper behavior created for King Sancho IV of Castile

Spain – Around 1290

1

An exemplary illuminated text of the didactic and moralizing literature of the 13th century

2

The moralizing stories teach how one should behave toward God, themselves, and one's subjects

3

This commission of Sancho IV of Castile (1258–1295) has a miniature that supposedly inspired Picasso's painting *Guernica*

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Romance of the Rose, begun by Guillaume de Lorris ca. 1235 and finished by Jean de Meung ca. 1280 in Paris, was one of the most widely read works in France through the Renaissance. It is groundbreaking for its use of the first-person perspective, allegorical figures, and the presentation of the entire story in a dream. Written in Old French, it was both popular and controversial in its time and provoked attacks on its sensual language and misogyny, most notably from Christine de Pizan. This magnificent Gothic manuscript created by Berthaud d'Achy, who served as both scribe and illuminator, presents the famous work adorned with 93 miniatures and a total of 624 decorative initials with a color palette dominated by red, blue, and gold. It is a stylistic masterpiece that is arguably the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1987

- 260 pages / 32.5 × 24.0 cm
- 93 golden miniatures and 624 colored initials
- Leather with blind embossing and leather clasps
- 600 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 8,600-€

2,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

How was one expected to lead a virtuous life in the Middle Ages? Those wanting to inform themselves on the matter can take a look at the Book of Punishment of King Sancho IV "the Brave" of Castile. The artfully illuminated manuscript likely originated in the scriptorium of his father, Alfonso X "the Wise", and was then completed in his son's name "...with the help of wise scholars". It contains legends told by saints and prophets that are meant to instruct the reader – a king – how he should behave toward God, himself, and his subjects. The precious manuscript was completed in 1292 and contains 22 miniatures in muted colors, some of which are furnished in precious gold leaf. They are a precious and entertaining source concerning life during King Sancho's reign depicting both...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Club Bibliófilo Versol

Madrid, 2002

- 166 pages / 37.0 × 26.5 cm
- 22 miniatures of various sizes, some containing gold
- Leather on board
- 500 copies
- Commentary: Spanish

Regularly 3,490-€

1,799 €
(like new)

Gradual of Gisela von Kerksenbrock

Inv. Nr. Ma 101 — Diözesanarchiv (Osnabrück, Germany)



In use for over 500 years, adorned with animated gold initials: the hymnal and masterpiece of the Cistercian nun and conductress Gisela von Kerksenbrock

Cistercian convent of Rulle, Osnabrück (Germany) – ca. 1300

1

This hymnal was written by the conductress Gisela von Kerksenbrock (d. ca. 1300) and used for nearly 500 years

2

Gisela recorded the notation for the Latin hymns and masterfully illustrated her work with gilded initials

3

It contains nearly 1,500 hymns at a time when most codices of this type contained only around 650

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Gradual of Gisela von Kerksenbrock is a medieval hymnal for the Gregorian choir of the Cistercian order at Marienbrunn bei Osnabrück. It was created around 1300 by the conductress Gisela von Kerksenbrock and was used at the Marienbrunn Nunnery for around 500 years. The work is renowned for its 53 magnificent historiated initials, 15 blue and gold initials entangled with flaming red tendrils, as well as 200 small, gold initials with blue and red backgrounds. Unlike most graduals, which contained around 650 hymns, the Gisela Codex has nearly 1,500 hymns in either an abbreviated or completed form. Therefore, the manuscript is not only one of the most comprehensive medieval musical codices but is also more thoroughly and elaborately decorated than any other work of...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Quaternio Verlag

Lucerne, 2014

- 344 pages / 35.5 × 26.0 cm
- 53 historiated initials on golden ground
- Leather with embossings, corner pieces, and two brass clasps
- 480 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 10,950-€

5,999 €
(like new)



Gradual of Gisela von Kerksenbrock

Initial Page for the Introit of Easter Sunday

Easter is not only the center of the Christian faith, but also the climax of the illustrations in the *Codex Gisle*. This initial page for the Introit of Easter Sunday is accordingly graceful with carefully considered compositions of depth. While three Old Testament prophets in the bas-de-page form the foundation for the entire page, the seven-line R initial is framed at its four corners by the Four Evangelists in medallions. It introduces the Introit: „Ressurexi et adhuc tecum sum. I am risen and always with you.“

In its upper half, the initial shows the resurrected Christ in his special union with God the Father, who calls him to resurrection on his banner: „Ex(s)urge gl(ori)a mea! - Arise, my glory!“ On the left outside the upper half of the initial stem, the nun Gisela has assigned herself a place as a devout observer of the scene, recording her name in red letters. The lower half of the R initial shows Christ's descent into limbo, where he treads victoriously on the conquered Devil and frees the souls imprisoned there. He first seizes the hand of Adam, who joyfully responds to him in his banner in Latin: „Behold the hands that created me!“ (Job 10:8)

Berlin Alexander Romance

78 C1 — Kupferstichkabinett Staatliche Museen (Berlin, Germany)



General, universal ruler, myth: the story of Alexander the Great told in over 100 golden miniatures

Northern France – Late 13th century

1

Alexander the Great (356–323 BC) was upheld as the ideal of a prince and a popular subject for medieval manuscripts

2

The specimen at hand from Berlin is based on a French version of the story from the 13th century

3

It is adorned with 100+ miniatures with golden embellishments, some of the period's most beautiful

1

The oldest surviving Italian book of hours originated in Florence between 1304 and 1309

2

The exceptional adornment of the codex reflects the ideas and imagery of Dante's (ca. 1265–1321) Divine Comedy

3

Created by a friend of Dante, illuminated with miniatures from his Divine Comedy: the oldest surviving book of hours in Italy

Padua (Italy) – 1304–1309



THE MANUSCRIPT

The Alexander Romance was one of the most popular literary works during the Middle Ages. It described the Macedonian conqueror as an honorable and generous king who is benevolent and noble to all who are wretched, remains humble despite of his victories, and never fails to honor the gods. A specimen of the book, which is stored today in Berlin, distinguishes itself through its elaborate illustration and lavish gold adornment. The so-called Berlin Alexander Romance is a chivalric romance concerning the life of Alexander the Great, which was assembled from descriptions of true events and fantastic legends. It originated at the end of the 13th century and contains over 100 magnificent miniatures illuminated with gold and silver depicting exotic locations, important battles, and...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 2002

- 168 pages / 27.0 × 20.0 cm
- 100 miniatures, gilt and silverwork
- Black cowhide with gold and blind embossing and two gilt clasps and luxury box
- 998 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 3,480 €

1,199 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Officiolum of Francesco da Barberino originated between 1304 and 1309 in Padua and is considered to be the oldest surviving Italian prayer book. Lost for centuries, it was auctioned by Christie's in Rome to an anonymous buyer in 2003 who even outbid the Italian State for the lost masterpiece. Today, its numerous miniatures allow us to immerse ourselves in the fascinating imagery of Dante's Divine Comedy. The text was originally written by Francesco da Barberino, a Florentine poet, contemporary and friend of both Giotto and Dante Alighieri while he was in exile in Padua. It is an allegorical treatment of hope, an early Christian theme, and borrows heavily from the Divine Comedy. 70 full- and half-page miniatures created by illuminators active in Romagna and Veneto with a rich...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Salerno Editrice

Rome, 2015

- 348 pages / 14.0 × 10.5 cm
- 70 illuminated folios with full-page and half-page minitures
- Handbound red velvet with gold tooling and gems and wooden box
- 399 copies
- Commentary: Italian



Regularly 3,900 €

1,899 €
(like new)

The Willehalm - Wolfram Von Eschenbach

Cod. Vindob. 267o — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



A fascinating picture of courtly life: Eschenbach's Middle High German epic of the knight Willehalm struggling against the Saracens

Western Germany – Around 1320

1

Willehalm is one of the most popular heroes of the greatest Middle High German poet: Wolfram Von Eschenbach (d. ca. 1220)

2

In the story of the knight Willehalm's fight against the Saracens, the heathens are granted their own religious and ethical significance for the first time

3

No less than 117 miniatures in the Vienna Codex illustrate this fascinating and epic history in Middle High German

Codex Calixtinus

Ms. 2631 — Universidad de Salamanca / Archivo de la Catedral (Salamanca, Spain)



Stolen in 2011 before reappearing a year later: the first travel guide for the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela (Spain) – ca. 1325

1

The official guide and fundament for pilgrims visiting the tomb of St. James (d. 44) at Santiago de Compostela

2

The medieval pilgrimage guide allows the magic around the tomb of St. James to be comprehended today

3

Stolen from Compostela Cathedral in 2011 and reappeared a year later

THE MANUSCRIPT

A heroic novel written 800 years ago, whose plot is set another 400 years earlier – and yet full of modern themes of the greatest topicality: this is the Willehalm by Wolfram von Eschenbach (1170-1220). The conflict is set around Willehalm and his wife Gyburc, who was the daughter of the Muslim king Terramer, but had herself baptized and married Willehalm. Happy and unhappy love, intricate and problematic kinship relations, and a surprisingly nuanced picture of Islam as a religion with ethical obligations to be respected are discovered by the reader in one of the most important verse epics of Middle High German literature. In this, the most beautiful edition of Willehalm, the themes find a congenial representation in 117 fabulous miniatures: even the horses seem...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1974

- 702 pages / 31.0 × 22.0 cm
- 117 miniatures, 15 initial letters
- Leather according to the character of the manuscript
- 950 copies
- Commentary: German

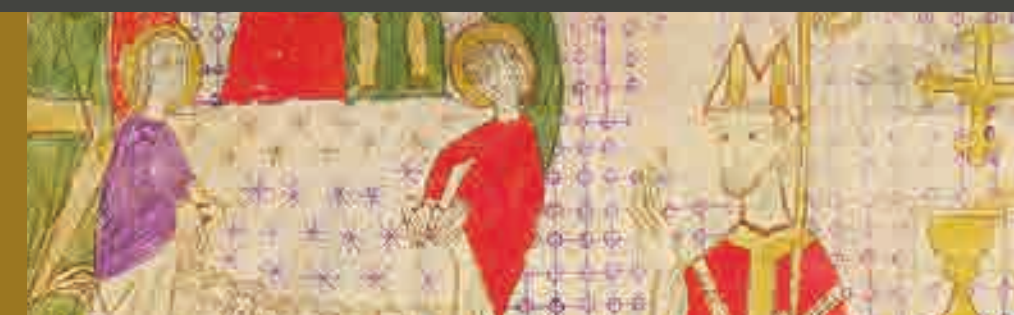


Regularly 3,800-€
1,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Salamanca codex of the Codex Calixtinus is one of five surviving manuscripts that contains the complete text of the Liber Sancti Iacobi, the Book of Saint James. It is named after Pope Calixtus II, to whom the work was originally attributed. Although modern scholars now believe it was written by another cleric shortly after the Pope's death, each chapter is prefaced by a letter attributed to Callixtus II. Nonetheless, it is a precious manuscript depicting not only St. James the Great but also inter alia the army of Charlemagne and the famous chivalric hero Roland. The shrine dedicated to St. James in Santiago de Compostela Cathedral has been a pilgrimage destination as early as the 9th century and became so popular that an official pilgrimage guide...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Siloé, arte y bibliofilia

Burgos, 2012

- 246 pages / 33.1 × 24.5 cm
- 5 miniatures including 2 full-pages, a historiated initial
- Full leather with gold decorated spine in a buckram leather
- 898 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 2,982-€
1,999 €
(like new)

Treatise on Astrology by Albumazar

Sloane 3983 — British Library (London, United Kingdom)



New Publication!

The great work of Albumazar, one of the most famous astronomers of the Orient: the astral mythology of Egypt, Greece, Persia, and India in a magnificently illuminated picture codex

Netherlands – Ca. 1325–1375

1

Albumazar aka Abu Ma'shar (787–886) was a highly esteemed early Persian Muslim astronomer

2

The practical manuals he made for training astrologers were influential in both the East and West

3

This mid-14th century manuscript feature 72 dreamlike miniatures from the Netherlandish school



THE MANUSCRIPT

Written in the mid-14th century, the Albumazar Treatise is one of the most fascinating picture books of the Middle Ages. Masterfully colored and shaded miniatures in delicate hues of green, purple, and blue adorn the manuscript, which is a testament to the contributions made by Arab science and civilization in the West and especially in Spain. The texts consist of fragments from the writings of Albumazar, one of the greatest Muslim astronomers of all time, which was translated by the legendary Toledo school. The manuscript represents a sampling of the astral mythology of Egypt, Greece, Persia, and India. 72 splendid, dreamlike miniatures adorn the manuscript, which was illuminated by unknown Netherlandish masters....

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



M. Moleiro Editor

Barcelona, 2020

- 100 pages / 27.0 × 18.0 cm
- 72 full-page miniatures; numerous colored drawings
- Red Morocco leather binding with gold tooling
- 987 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 5,900-€

3,999 €
(like new)

Treatise on Astrology by Albumazar

Mars Declinatio

The second section of the manuscript contains personifications of the planets in the four phases of their power and the respective zodiac signs associated with their houses. So, while the Mars Domus page shows the warrior enthroned triumphantly above Ares and Scorpio, here we see him "in decline" as though he has been knocked off his throne.

While Taurus looks up at him with big dumb eyes, the scales of Libra appear unaffected, perhaps meaning to symbolize a restoration of balance. The eastern style of Mars' lamellar armor points to the Persian origins of the text and the likelihood that the unknown Netherlandish masters may have had access to an Arabic manuscript or a copy that also modelled the artistic style of the original.

Briefly Explained: Saints' Lives

If saints modelled their lives on that of Jesus Christ, then medieval Europeans modelled their lives on those of saints. Indeed, many monastic orders were founded in imitation of one saint or another. This is evidenced by the large number of medieval hagiographic works that have survived to the present, some of which belong among the finest specimens of illuminated manuscripts.

The life-story and deeds of a saint as a healer, visionary, and a generally holy person were recorded in so-called hagiographies or "Saints' Lives" such as the Legenda Maior concerning St. Francis of Assisi. Other manuscripts like the Anjou Legendarium take a more encyclopedic form and cover a large number of saints in condensed form.

Illuminated manuscripts of these tales were commissioned to provide spiritual and moral inspiration to laymen or by monastic orders celebrating their founders and were produced from Late Antiquity through the invention of the printing press. They are a testament to the important role saints played in medieval Christian spirituality.



Legenda Aurea - Anjou Legendarium

Martyrdom of Saint Peter

The Pope is often referred to as the "heir of St. Peter", an Apostle who was martyred in Rome in the year 64, which is illustrated here. The cause is debated: some claim that it was part of recriminations against Christians who were blamed for the Great Fire of Rome, others claim it was simply because of his faith.

Peter is depicted with his iconic short-cropped beard and balding head in this gorgeous, richly gilded miniature. He is arrested and crucified on the orders of the Emperor Nero, who is depicted as a bearded medieval king. This was done with his head downward according to his own wishes, because he felt unworthy to die in the same way as Christ. The final scene, in which his body is wrapped, features a figure wearing a miter, an allusion to the papacy?das Papsttum.

Legenda Aurea - Anjou Legendarium

Vat. lat. 8541 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



Intended as a picture book for the son of the Hungarian king: a masterpiece in golden miniatures of the Trecento based on Jacobus de Voragine's famous tale of the saints

Hungary – ca. 1330

1

This manuscript was commissioned by the Hungarian King Charles I (1288–1342) as a gift to his son

2

The work contains 105 vivid miniatures, sometimes set against a gold background, with saints' vitae

3

Although anonymous, the master was probably from Bologna and a representative of the Trecento

THE MANUSCRIPT

A Gothic masterpiece by an Italian master created at the Hungarian royal court: the Legenda Aurea from Hungary originated ca. 1330 and was commissioned by the Hungarian King Charles I (Charles Robert) as a gift to his son. The manuscript contains 105 vivid full-page miniatures, always set against a glimmering gold background, depicting scenes from the lives of important saints in vivid colors. It is an enlargement of the work of the same name by Jacobus de Vorraigne and focuses in particular on saints with a connection to the Anjou family as well as high church officials from Hungary and Poland. Each miniature page is divided into four scenes divided by artful frames and the Gothic work already exhibits some of the stylistic changes of the nascent Renaissance...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1990

- 212 pages / 28.0 × 21.5 cm
- 105 mostly full-page miniatures (each page with 4 scenes) illuminated in gold
- Blind embossed full leather binding
- 400 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 3,980 €

1,499 €
(like new)

Oldenburg Mirror of Saxony

CIM I 410 — Landesbibliothek (Oldenburg, Germany)



A treasure of art and legal history: one of only four illuminated manuscripts of the first legal text in the history in the German language

Monastery of Rastede (Germany) – 1336

1

2

3

One of only four illumined manuscripts of the famous legal text by Eike von Repgow (ca. 1180–1233)

This fundamental text concerning medieval German law is also a rich source of cultural history

Language, jurisdiction, and popular culture: it plainly shows how our generation is rooted in a long gone past

Apocalypse of Lorraine

Mscr.Dresd.Oc.50 — Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats - und Universitätsbibliothek (Dresden, Germany)



Collotype Edition!

A Gothic Apocalypse in vernacular: a visually stunning masterpiece with 72 magnificent miniatures in silver and gold against lavishly patterned backgrounds

Metz (France) – First half of the 14th century

1

2

3

The Book of Revelation in a splendid vernacular manuscript originating in early-14th century Lorraine

It was commissioned by a wealthy and sophisticated patron in Metz, as evidenced by the rich use of gold and silver

Figures appear expressive and natural in the 72 richly colored miniatures with diligently patterned backgrounds

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Oldenburg Mirror of Saxony stands out among the numerous various manifestations of the „Mirror of Saxony“, one of the oldest works codifying medieval law, because it is one of a very few illustrated manuscripts whose illustrations are condensed in a special picture column and the only example of an illustrated text on territorial and feudal law. Written in German, the language of the people instead of Latin or Greek, it was commissioned by Count John III of Oldenburg to counter the increasing tendency toward uncertainty in legal matters. This document is actually a translation of a now lost Latin original, a copy of which was made for him in 1336 at Rastede Abbey. In addition to being an excellent source for the study of medieval German law, the wealth of miniatures...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1995

- 272 pages / 32.8 × 22.8 cm
- All pages illustrated alongside the text
- Red leather with blind embossing and 2 brass clasps
- 530 copies
- Commentary: German

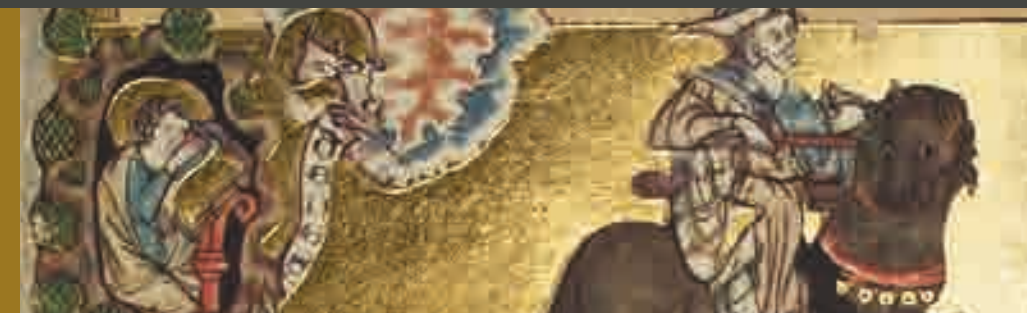
Regularly 3,700-€

1,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Book of Revelation, better known during the Middle Ages as the Apocalypse, is one of the most enigmatic and fascinating books of the Bible and also provided marvelous opportunities for illuminators and miniaturists to express their artistic talent. The fantastic imagery of these often-terrifying events yielded some of the greatest works medieval art, including this fine specimen of Gothic illumination. 72 richly colored miniatures, with either shimmering gold leaf backgrounds or intricately patterned backgrounds, illustrate the incredible events. Instead of Latin, the work was written in the medieval Lothringian dialect for a presumably lay patron in Metz. Altogether, it is both an exemplary specimen of an Apocalypse manuscript and Gothic art in general while also being a...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Edition Leipzig

Leipzig, 1982

- 118 pages / 25.0 × 18.0 cm
- 72 miniatures, many of them with golden backgrounds
- Full tooled leather with raised spine after the original
- 800 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 2,450-€

1,399 €
(like new)

Codex of St. George

Arch. Cap. S. Pietro C 129 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



New Publication!

Commissioned by Cardinal Jacopo Stefaneschi at the notoriously lavish papal court in Avignon: The Legend of St. George, Slayer of the Dragon

Italy and probably Avignon (France) – First half of the 14th century

1

After the papacy moved to Avignon in 1309, numerous artists from across Europe followed them there

2

The Vita of St. George is adorned with elaborate historiated initials and a gorgeous miniature of St. George slaying the dragon

3

Originating from or trained in Siena, the Master of the Codex of Saint George was active in Avignon from 1310 to 1344

THE MANUSCRIPT

Some manuscripts are so spectacular that they become the name of convenience for the artist who created them. Such is the case with the gorgeous Codex of St. George, which is housed in the illustrious collections of the Vatican Apostolic Library. Aside from the standard liturgical texts, the illuminated missal also contains a Vita of Saint George written by Cardinal Jacopo Caetani degli Stefaneschi (1270–1343). The work was lavishly illuminated by the Master of the Codex of Saint George ca. 1320 in Avignon at the behest of Cardinal Jacopo Stefaneschi and is adorned by gorgeous historiated initials and bas-de-page miniatures...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Belser Verlag

Stuttgart, 2020

- 270 pages / 37.5 x 25.0 cm
- 18 miniatures accompanied by bas-de-page images
- Dark brown leather binding with 2 clasps; a medallion of St. George
- 299 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 13,990 €

4,899 €
(like new)



Codex of St. George

Saint George and the Dragon

The image of "Christ Militant" slaying a serpent is one of the oldest in Christian art and the dragon motif appears to have been transferred to St. George in the early 11th century. As an officer in the elite Praetorian Guard, he served as a perfect example for the knights of the First Crusade, who believed he fought alongside them at Antioch and Jerusalem.

According to legend, the citizens of Silene, Libya were terrorized by a dragon, which they tried to placate through sacrifices – originally sheep, but eventually people who were chosen by lot. Finally, the king's daughter was to be sacrificed. She looks on from the right as George attacks the dragon and drives a lance into its mouth, which inspires the people to convert to Christianity.

Losbuch in deutschen Reimpaaren

Cod. Vindob. S. N. 2652 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



From serious belief to sarcastic amusement: proverbs from ancient Greece in one of the oldest German-language rhyming books

Limburg (Germany) – Last quarter of the 14th century

ADEVA

Graz, 1972

- 46 pages / 29.5 × 20.0 cm
- 2 full-page miniatures, all the other pages with small ornamental bands
- Leather, copy of the original binding omitting the metal fittings
- Commentary: German

Regularly 480 €

299 €
(like new)

Biblia Pauperum Apocalypsis: The Weimar Manuscript

Cod. Fol. max. 4 — Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek (Weimar, Germany)



Collotype
Edition!

Made in Erfurt: it may seem simple at first glance, but a second look reveals sophisticated miniatures of the Book of Revelation

Erfurt (Germany) – 1340–1350

Insel Verlag

Frankfurt, 1977

- 72 pages / 48.0 × 33.0 cm
- 58 full-page illuminations in a large format
- Parchment binding
- 1,000 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 980 €

499 €
(like new)

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Here: University of Salzburg / Archdiocese of St. Peter



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Divine Comedy - Codex Altonensis

Bibliothek des Gymnasiums Christaneum (Hamburg, Germany)



Collotype
Edition!

An extraordinarily artful manuscript of the Divinia Commedia by Dante Alighieri with a famous, terrifying full-page miniature of Lucifer

Tuscany (Italy) – 1350–1410

1

Work on the manuscript began in the second half of the 14th century but was abandoned ca. 1410

2

The splendid work in progress allows art historians an inside look into the production process

3

Although the third part was left unfinished, Inferno and Purgatorio are masterfully illuminated

Très Belles Heures de Notre-Dame

Nouv.acq.lat,3093 — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



Separated today, once part of a true mammoth work: a magnificent labor by the Limbourg Brothers for Jean Duc de Berry

Paris or Bourges (France) – Around 1380, around 1404–1409, and around 1412

1

The Très Belles Heures, Turin-Milan Hours, and now-burned Turin Book of Hours originally comprised a single work

2

Each of these parts, made inter alia by the famous Limbourg Brothers, is counted among the most magnificent medieval prayer books today

3

The work was commissioned ca. 1380 by Duke Jean of Berry (1340–1416), one of the greatest art patrons in history

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Codex Altonensis is an extraordinarily artful manuscript of the Divinia Commedia by Dante Alighieri, the cornerstone of Italian literature and one of the most important and influential texts of the Middle Ages. Work on the manuscript began sometime in the second half of the 14th century but was abandoned ca. 1410, which left it in a state of progress that allows art historians an inside look into the production process. Although the third part, Paradiso, was left unfinished, Inferno and Purgatorio are masterfully illuminated including a terrifying full-page miniature of Lucifer. The presence of different scripts indicates that a team of scribes were responsible for the text, which was neatly written in two columns consisting of 36 lines at most...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Gebr. Mann Verlag

Berlin, 1965

- 284 pages / 33.0 × 24.5 cm
- Nearly 300 Miniatures
- Linen binding
- 600 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 2,480-€

599 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Aptly named "very beautiful Book" in French, this fine manuscript exhibits numerous influences from Flemish art and is the work of various masters in several stages between ca. 1380 and ca. 1412. Its 25 miniature pages juxtapose primary scenes from the New Testament with matching bas-de-page vignettes. Each is presented within an artful frame with ivy vines interrupted by depictions of angels and small animals like birds and butterflies. Originally commissioned by the famous bibliophile Duke Jean of Berry (1340–1416), he then gave it to his treasurer Robinet d'Estampes in 1412. With miniatures resembling panel paintings, it is a work of art both in its parts and as a whole, resulting in the manuscript being divided and sold in separate fragments several times during its...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1992

- 252 pages / 28.0 × 20.0 cm
- 25 miniature pages
- The lavish red kidskin binding is richly tooled in gold and decorated with a coat-of-arms
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German, French

Regularly 3,480-€

1,399 €
(like new)

Visconti Book of Hours

Mss. BR 397 e LF 22 — Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (Florence, Italy)



Created by Giovannino de' Grassi and Belbello da Pavia: an expressive illuminated prayer book in two volumes for the Duke of Milan

Probably Milan (Italy) – Around 1390, completed after 1428

1

A two-volume book of hours commissioned by Gian Galeazzo Visconti, the Duke of Milan, with 162 full-page miniatures, richly decorated with gold leaf

2

Work on these masterpieces began ca. 1390 by the exceptional master Giovannino de' Grassi (ca. 1350–98)

3

After the unexpected death of de' Grassi in 1428, this image-focused prayer book was completed by Belbello da Pavia (d. ca. 1470)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Visconti Book of Hours was produced in two different periods: initial work on the manuscript was begun ca. 1390 by Giovanni de Grassi and was finished sometime after 1428 by Belbello de Pavia. This splendid two-volume codex is the most beautiful book of hours of the Italian Renaissance and a true masterpiece of illumination. It was originally commissioned by Gian Galeazzo Visconti, Duke of Milan, who is remembered as one of the greatest art patrons of the Italian Renaissance. His coat of arms and other heraldic devices can be found throughout the codex. The lavish artistic program includes 38 elaborate miniature pages, 90 historiated initials, and countless decorative frames with filigree tendrils and vignettes – nearly every page of the manuscript...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Franco Cosimo Panini

Modena, 2003

- 2 Bände, 636 pages / 25.0 × 17.9 cm
- 34 full-page miniatures, numerous half-page miniatures
- Red velvet binding with two elaborated silver clasps
- 500 copies
- Commentary: Italian



Regularly 21,500-€

6,999 €
(like new)



Visconti Book of Hours

God Confronts Eve

"And the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'" (Gen 3:13). This magnificent historiated initial depicts Eve after she and Adam have eaten of the forbidden fruit and earned God's wrath. In shame of her nakedness, Eve covers herself with a handful of leaves and points to the deceitful serpent with a human face.

Six Visconti shields mounted on a green Gothic architecture flank the miniature. Two white doves are caged in the red and blue columns that line the right and left margins. The bas de page miniature portrays a cherub with gold leaf wings sitting on the back of a lion, holding the beast's mane with his left hand as he prepares to strike with a dagger in his right.

Missale Hervoiae Ducis Spalatensis croatico-glagoliticum

Topkapi Sarayi (Istanbul, Turkey)



Western miniatures with details of oriental and Byzantine origin: a rare and significant masterpiece of Croatian-Glagolitic scripture

Croatia / Italy – ca. 1403

Flemish Apocalypse

ms. néerlandais 3 — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



The impressive refinement of English Gothic Apocalypses: full-page and mysterious images of the approaching end times in the transition to the Renaissance

Flanders – 1400–1410

1

An important work of long-banned Croatian Glagolitic literature, re-established in 1248 by Pope Innocent IV (ca. 1195–1254)

2

This luxury manuscript was made for a high-ranking noble of the Hungarian-Croatian Kingdom

3

The miniatures combine both Western elements and details of oriental and Byzantine origin

1

The unique manuscript in the Gothic style contains breath-taking miniatures from Flemish miniaturists

2

Large, full-page miniatures break with the tradition of English Apocalypses during the Gothic period

3

The mysterious yet realistic miniatures mark the transition from the art of the Gothic to the Renaissance

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Missale Hervoiae occupies a special place in the history of the Croatian-Slavonic language. Made for a high-ranking noble of the Hungarian-Croatian Kingdom, this is a luxury manuscript with 96 colorful miniatures and around 380 large ornamental initials. The Missale Hervoiae is one of the most important texts of Croatian Glagolitic literature, which had been banned for centuries, and was only to be re-established in 1248 by Pope Innocence IV. Heavily influenced by Byzantine art, its combination of eastern and western principles in terms of composition and contents has secured it a place in the regional and transregional history of art. The miniatures illustrate scenes from both the Old and the New Testaments, allegories of the months with characteristic scenes from...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 1973

- 494 pages / 30.6 × 23.0 cm
- Nearly every page is illuminated: 96 miniatures including 3 full-page miniatures, 380 historiated initials, and numerous smaller initials
- Leather binding
- Commentary: German, English, Latein

Regularly 2,980-€

1,399 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Book of Revelation, referred to as the Apocalypse during the Middle Ages, was one of the most popular texts chosen for illuminated manuscripts because the incredible, fantastic, and often terrifying events it describes allowed artists to explore the very limits of their ability. Marking the transition from Gothic to Renaissance art, the Flemish Apocalypse arose between 1400 and 1410 in Belgian Flanders, which was one of the most important centers of the manuscript production at the time, and is found today in the French National Library. The anonymous illuminator made 23 high-quality, gold-adorned illustrations for the manuscript. These reflect the traditional style of the Apocalypse manuscript of that time, and yet they also contain unique new stylistic characteristics...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



M. Moleiro Editor

Barcelona, 2005

- 50 pages / 34.0 × 25.0 cm
- 23 full-page illuminations decorated with gold
- Deep red leather with leather case
- 987 copies
- Commentary: Spanish

Regularly 5,554-€

2,499 €
(like new)

The Très Riches Heures of the Duke of Berry

Ms. 65 — Musée Condé (Chantilly, France)



Our picture of the Middle Ages, created by the Limbourg brothers for the Duke of Berry: the calendar miniatures from one of the most beautiful, valuable, and famous manuscripts in the world

Paris and/or Bourges (France) – 1410–1416 and 1485–1489

Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1994

- Twelve single leaves under passepartout
- In red book box
- Commentary: German

Regularly 980-€

299 €
(like new)

Treasures of the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

Getty Museum (Los Angeles, USA)



From the museum of a great oil tycoon and art patron: a sampling of the first-class manuscript collection of the Getty Museum

Helmarshausen (Germany); Bologna (Italy) and others — 11th–15th century

Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2009

- Twelve single leaves under passepartout
- Elaborated box
- 1,995 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 1,698-€

399 €
(like new)

ZIEREIS FACSIMILES

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Here: at the Frankfurt Book Fair



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Travels of Sir John of Mandeville

Add MS 24189 — British Library (London, United Kingdom)



A unicum of illumination and a testimony to Bohemian book art: a travelogue illuminated with 28 demi-grisaille miniatures on green-colored parchment

Bohemia (Czech Republic) – Ca. 1410–1420

1

The popular story was translated from French into Czech by Vavrínek of Brezová (ca. 1370 – ca. 1437) ca. 1410

2

Aside from being an English knight, the true identity behind the pseudonym of Jean de Mandeville remains a mystery

3

This is a fine testament to the artistic flowering that occurred in early-15th century Bohemia

Ottheinrich's Bible

Cgm 8010/1.2 — Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich, Germany)



A masterpiece of the Gothic and German Renaissance: the first illustrated New Testament Bible in German

Regensburg (Germany) – 1425–1430 and ca. 1530

1

Work on the "first illustrated New Testament edition in German" began in Regensburg in the 14th century

2

It was completed 100 years later in the style of the German Renaissance with 46 miniatures altogether

3

Count Palatine Ottheinrich von der Pfalz commissioned inter alia Matthias Gerung (about 1500–1570) with the completion of the 8-volume masterpiece

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Travels of Sir Jean de Mandeville was one of the most popular texts of the Middle Ages, written by an anonymous author. It is the travelogue of an English knight with the pseudonym Sir Jean de Mandeville, who traveled the East for 30 years before returning to Europe. This manuscript from the British Library is a particularly fine specimen of early 15th century Bohemian illumination. It presents the story entirely in pictures: the events are depicted in 28 full-page miniatures without text – such is the narrative power and artistry of these images, each an outstanding specimen of the grisaille technique. Created by the so-called Master of the Mandeville Travels, the miniatures are distinguished by intricately patterned backgrounds and figures with detail facial expressions. The image...



THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Patrimonio Ediciones

Valencia, 2018

- 32 pages / 22.5 × 18.0 cm
- 28 full-page miniatures
- Stamped dark leather
- 500 copies
- Commentary: Spanish

Regularly 3,000-€
1,999 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Work began on "first illustrated New Testament edition in German" ca. 1430 in Regensburg. The rich ornamentation of manuscript originates from the hands of several important masters of the "Regensburg School" of the 14th century and was completed 100 years later in the style of the German Renaissance. The enigma of the work's patron was only solved a few years ago, with sources pointing to Duke Ludwig "the Bearded" of Bavaria-Ingolstadt. The Ottheinrich Bible is currently housed in Munich and the highly coveted manuscript has had quite the checkered past in terms of ownership. 46 half- or full-page miniatures with luminous golden backgrounds and vivid, eye-catching colors made from the most expensive materials. The text, neatly written in two columns, is adorned...



THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2002

- 156 pages / 53.2 × 37.2 cm
- 46 miniatures on a gold leaf background, 41 brushed gold initials
- Leather with rich gold and blind tooling, eight bosses and four clasps
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 4,980-€
2,299 €
(like new)

Sobieski Hours

Royal Library at Windsor Castle (Windsor, United Kingdom)



A magnificent work by the famous Bedford Master and the Master of the Munich Legenda Aurea: 60 full-page miniatures and more than 400 illustrated scenes for the Countess of Burgundy

Paris (France) – ca. 1420

1

A highpoint of late Gothic illumination supposedly commissioned by Margaret of Burgundy (1393–1441) ca. 1420

2

The Fastolf Master, Master of the Munich Legenda Aurea, and the famous Bedford Master all contributed to it

3

60 full-page miniatures, 400+ illustrated scenes, 66 large-format, and countless smaller historiated initials



THE MANUSCRIPT

One of the greatest works of Gothic illumination was a collaboration of some of the greatest French masters of the 15th century: the Sobieski Hours. Named after its 17th century owner, King John III Sobieski of Poland (1629–96), it is now one of the most prized possessions of the British Royal Library. It contains 60 full-page miniatures containing 400+ individual scenes, in addition to 66 large, historiated initials and countless smaller ones. In addition to the Bedford Master, since such comprehensive décor could hardly be handled by a single artist, the Fastolf Master and the Master of the Munich Legenda Aurea also contributed significantly to the illumination. The work combines the typical texts of a book of hours with various saint's lives and is counted among the finest illuminated manuscripts to survive...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Quaternio Verlag

Lucerne, 2016

- 468 pages / 28.6 × 19.7 cm
- 60 full-page miniautres, 400+ composed scenes, and 66 historiated as well as countless smaller initials
- Red velvet with two medallions
- 680 copies
- Commentary: German, English, French



Regularly 10,950-€

5,999 €
(like new)

Sobieski Hours

February: Chopping Wood

Artful calendar pages were a common feature of illuminated books of hours in the Late Middle Ages. Aside from their practical use, they are also decorated with so-called "labors of the month" that offer a glimpse of everyday life during that time of year. The text, figures, and filigree tendril border were all created with the finest paints and gold leaf.

February was a time of great boredom for medieval peasants as there was not much to do aside from tend the animals and keep warm. As such, we see one man chopping down a tree and another warming his feet by the fire in what is probably a woodshed. He is flanked by David and the Gemini symbol on the left and St. Andrew the Apostle on the right, pictured with the X-shaped cross that is named after him.

Briefly Explained: Islamic

Islamic manuscripts, like their Christian and Jewish counterparts, range in topic from the strictly religious to the secular and even the blasphemous. Due to the strict ban on figures in religious texts, Islamic art developed extremely fine geometric and floral décor as well as truly extraordinary calligraphy, such as in the famous Golden Koran.

The Islamic world was the site of much of the most important scholarly work of the Middle Ages. Arab translations of Greek and Roman texts, preserving classical works lost in the West or only existing in fragments, proved invaluable to European scholars who were able to translate these works back into Greek and Latin, and then into their respective vernacular languages. From the 11th century onward, so-called Graeco-Arabic texts made their way to Europe via Moorish Spain and Sicily, where they were translated back into Greek and Latin by European scholars and then translated into the relevant vernaculars.

Muslim scholars distinguished themselves in the fields of philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, alchemy, cartography, and medicine in particular. On the other hand, Muslim bookmakers pioneered the craft of linen paper, creating a product that was cheaper than parchment but stronger than paper made from organic materials. Although relatively few specimens have survived to the present, Muslim manuscript culture is a crucial field of study that is finally starting to get the attention it deserves.

Mi'ragnama: The Apocalypse of Mohamed

Ms. Suppl. Turc. 190 — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



Including the rare pictorial representation of the Prophet: a splendid Uyghur manuscript with impressive miniatures from the life of Muhammad

Herat (Afghanistan) – ca. 1436–1437

1

This Uyghur manuscript retains magnificent miniatures of the rarely pictorially depicted Islamic prophet

2

The story of Mohammed is explained in wondrous, ornamental, and realistically designed pictures

3

The rich application of gold and blending of Islamic and Asian aesthetics lend it a certain magnificence

THE MANUSCRIPT

This richly illuminated Uyghur manuscript relates the story of the ascendance of the Prophet Muhammed together with the Angel Gabriel, which is illustrated by 61 magnificent miniatures with rich, opaque colors and shimmering gold leaf. Together with the Angel, Mohammed embarks thereafter on a journey towards heaven, wherein he visits the various spheres and parts of heaven. The manuscript originated in Herat, Afghanistan ca. 1436 at the behest of Shah Rukh, who was an important patron of the arts as well as being a son of the famous Timur, founder of the Timurid Empire. Its décor is a wonderful mix of Arabic and Central Asian artistic influences resulting from the cultural boom that occurred under the Timurid dynasty. The manuscript is one of the rare works to defy the Islamic ban on...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Patrimonio Ediciones

Valencia, 2008

- 70 pages / 34.5 × 24.5 cm
- 61 full-page miniatures illuminated in gold
- Leather binding impressed with gold leaf
- 999 copies
- Commentary: Spanish, English

Regularly 6,500 €

2,999 €
(like new)

Mi'ragnama: The Apocalypse of Mohamed

Ascent of Muhammad to Heaven

According to Islamic tradition, Muhammad was taken on a spiritual and physical journey in the course of one night, first going from Mecca to Jerusalem and from there ascending into Heaven. Muhammad rode on the back of a Buraq – a white winged beast resembling a mule. The depiction of the Buraq with a crowned human face indicates a Persian influence in this rare and precious Uyghur manuscript.

Preceded by an elaborate header and tightly-written text, this miniature is a kaleidoscope of rich primary colors and gold leaf, which is used to depict the swirling clouds. While Muhammed is dressed in a simple green tunic, the angels wear elaborate garments with fine patterns and their wings are rendered with different colors on each side.

Book of Hours of Marguerite d'Orléans

Ms. latin 1156B — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



Featuring scenes of historical events, jousting tournaments, or ships being loaded in port: a beautiful book of hours for the granddaughter of King Charles V of France, adorned with 41 full-page miniatures

Rennes, Bourges and Paris (France) – ca. 1426–1430 and ca. 1450

1

2

3

Countess Margaret of Orleans (1406–1466) was the granddaughter of King Charles V of France and grandniece of the great bibliophile Jean Duc de Berry

41 miniatures and 24 calendar medallions with labors of the month offer a glimpse of 15th century life

Historical events, jousting knights, devout pilgrims, and ships being unloaded in a harbor are depicted

Notitia Dignitatum by Peronet Lamy

MS. Canon. Misc. 378 — Bodleian Library (Oxford, United Kingdom)



The oldest copy of a work lost today: the „List of Offices“ of the Late Roman Empire, magnificently illuminated for the Bishop of Padua

Italy – 1436

1

2

3

A 5th century Roman state registry containing information about the organization of the Late Roman Empire

The original is lost today but has been recorded in four medieval transcripts, of which this is the oldest

Perronet Lamy (d. 1453) created this specimen for Bishop Pietro Donato (1380–1447) from a 9th century manuscript in 1436

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Book of Hours of Marguerite d'Orléans originates from ca. 1426 and was created by a court illuminator who was known as the "Master of Marguerite d'Orléans." The magnificent example contains some of the most beautiful miniatures of its epoch and is embroidered by its decorative borders, which frame the pages. Altogether it contains 41 luminously colored miniatures, framed with borders that present historical events, as well as 24 calendar medallions in gold frames. Contemporary scenes of medieval life are presented in never-before-seen variety and narrative delight. Marguerite d'Orléans was the granddaughter of King Charles V and great niece of the famous bibliophile Duke Jean de Berry. The manuscript features numerous...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Quaternio Verlag

Lucerne, 2013

- 420 pages / 20.7 × 15.0 cm
- 41 full-page miniatures, 24 calendar medallions framed in gold, and 42 ornate floral borders
- Red Moroccan leather
- 680 copies
- Commentary: German, English



Regularly 6,980-€

2,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

A unique historical treasure is known today under the title Notitia Dignitatum: a Roman state registry from the 5th century containing extremely exciting information about the military and civil organization of the Late Roman Empire. The original is lost today but has been recorded in four medieval transcripts, the oldest and most important of which is stored in Oxford's Bodleian Library and grants a wonderful inside view into the Roman Empire of late antiquity. The work was commissioned by Pietro Donato and Savoy miniaturist Perronet Lamy served as the illuminator of the manuscript, which he created in 1436. Working in Basel, Switzerland, he furnished it with 109 gorgeous miniatures based on classical examples including detailed depictions of the armaments,...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Treccani

Rome, 2014

- 348 pages / 27.5 × 19.5 cm
- 109 miniatures
- Brown leather binding with gold stamping
- 599 copies
- Commentary: Italian



Regularly 4,800-€

2,299 €
(like new)

Boccaccio's Decameron - Codex Paris

Ms. 5070 — Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal (Paris, France)



100 famous short stories with 100 perfectly matching miniatures: a large-format masterpiece commissioned by the Burgundian Duke Philip the Good

Gramont (France) and Ghent (Belgium) – 1445–1450

1

This huge codex holds the French translation of Giovanni Boccaccio's (1313–1375) world famous Decameron

2

Each of the 100 short stories is prefaced with a masterfully executed and perfectly summarizing miniatures

3

A highlight of Flemish illumination commissioned by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy (1396–1467)



THE MANUSCRIPT

THE FACSIMILE EDITION

One of the most important works of world literature in one of the most marvelous manuscripts of the 15th century: the famous collection of novellas in Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron from the mid-14th century was translated into French by Laurent de Premierfait and illustrated with wonderful miniatures. The presumed commissioner of the work was Philipp the Good, Duke of Burgundy, a lover of splendid manuscripts. Guillebert de Mets copied the French text into the wonderful manuscript and his famous miniaturists, the Master of Guillebert de Mets and the Master of Mansel, marvelously designed it. The miniatures belong among the most beautiful Flemish works of art from that golden age of illumination and makes the French edition of Boccaccio's Decameron a...



Scriptorium

Valencia, 2009

- 790 pages / 40.0 × 28.5 cm
- A framed double scene at the beginning of each one of the 100 stories + numerous decorated initials
- Leather binding
- 390 copies
- Commentary: Spanish, English



Regularly 11,100-€

4,499 €
(like new)

Boccaccio's Decameron - Codex Paris

Gillette of Narbonne before the King

Within this frame narrative of young nobles telling stories to one another while hiding from the Plague as it ravages Florence, the ninth tale told on day three concerns Gillette of Narbonne and the King of France. Based on a Sanskrit work originating in 5th century India, the tale later became the basis for the play All's Well That Ends Well by William Shakespeare.

This miniature is a wonderful glimpse of court life in the 15th century, which is depicted under vaulted ceilings before meticulously patterned backgrounds. While an aristocratic family dines on the right, a young lady is being presented at court on the left. She is pictured wearing a garland and kneeling before the King, who wields a scepter and is flanked by advisors.

Briefly Explained: Mythology

Myths and legends were popular forms of medieval literature, reconciling Christian and pagan traditions and consisting of various creation myths, origin myths, and folklore. Some were rooted in pagan traditions from Greek and Roman antiquity, like the Trojan War or the Bible, while others evolved from stories either true or untrue that are rooted in the Early Middle Ages and focused on figures like King Arthur and Charlemagne.

Although illuminated manuscripts depicting various myths and legends were created throughout the Middle Ages, renewed interest in ancient works during the Late Middle Ages and the rise of Renaissance Humanism (when princely houses wanted to prove their descent from Trojan heroes) resulted in the formal study of mythology in the West for the first time since Late Antiquity.

Tavola Ritonda

Lancelot Meets Knights for the First Time on the Way to King Arthur

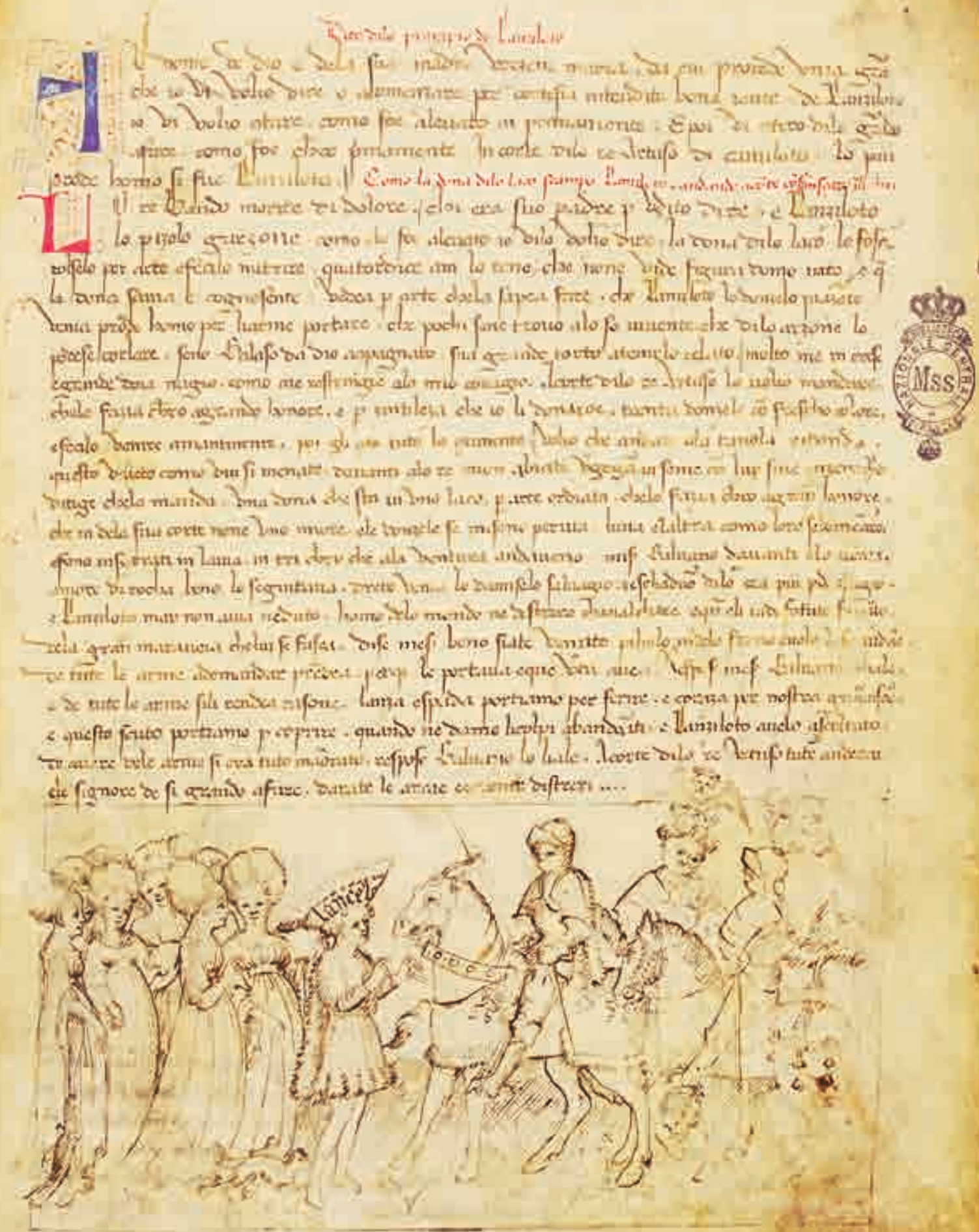


Tavola Ritonda

ms. Palatino 556 — Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (Florence, Italy)



The legends of King Arthur in the context of the Renaissance: 289 fascinating pen drawings created at the court of the Visconti

Italy – 1446

1

This Renaissance manuscript sets the famous Arthurian legends in the context of North Italian court culture

2

It is dated to the 20th of July, 1446 and probably originated from the court of the Visconti in Milan

3

289 pen and ink drawings, probably from the hand of Bonifacio Bembo (1420–82), distinguish the Italian manuscript

THE MANUSCRIPT

This impressive Italian Renaissance manuscript brings the famous tales of the Arthurian sagas back to life: texts concerning the adventures of Lancelot and Tristan and the search for the Holy Grail are assembled here – unique for this tradition in Italy – with gorgeous pen and ink drawings probably illustrated by Bonifacio Bembo. These 289 drawings present a vivid picture of court culture in Northern Italy during the first half of the 15th century and make the manuscript a unique attestation to the Italian Tristan tradition. The text is a tapestry of Arthurian legends combining heroic adventures with stories of lovers. A high-ranking member of the Visconti court in Milan, perhaps Pier Maria Rossi, is believed to be the original patron of the splendid and unique manuscript, which is precisely dated July 20th, 1446. It is a significant art-historical and literary attestation of its epoch!

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Treccani

Rome, 2009

- 242 pages / 27.5 × 20.0 cm
- 289 drawings
- Red velvet
- 750 copies
- Commentary: Italian

Regularly 4,800-€

2,499 €
(like new)

Silius Italicus: De Secundo Bello Punico Poema

Inv. 1791 — Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana (Venice, Italy)
Lat. XII, 68 – 4519 — The State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg, Russia)



A magnificent epic concerning the Second Punic War: Francesco Di Stefano's Renaissance masterpiece for Pope Nicolaus V

Florence (Italy) – Around 1448

Orbis Mediaevalis

Madrid, 2010

- 14 pages / 33.0 × 20.2 cm
- 8 single leaves in box
- 949 copies
- Commentary: English, Spanish, French

Regularly 980-€

499 €
(like new)

Book of the Hunt

Ms. 10218 — Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique (Brussels, Belgium)



King Modus in conversation with one of his students: of the art of hunting and the splendid lifestyle of the Burgundian nobility

Flanders – 1455

ADEVA

Graz, 1989

- 214 pages / 29.9 × 20.5 cm
- 56 large miniatures, marginal miniatures, and decorative initials with gold leaf
- Leather with gold embossing
- 3,000 copies
- Commentary: German, Spanish, French

Regularly 1,480-€

549 €
(like new)

Guido de Columnis: The Trojan War

Cod. 2773 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



A magnificent codex from Regensburg, left to the city council for 15 kilograms of silver: golden miniatures depicting the Trojan War in a unique German translation

Regensburg (Germany) – 1432–1456

1

The story of Troy as told by Guido de Columnis in the 13th century is presented here in a unique German translation

2

The Regensburg-based illuminator and scribe Martinus Opifex created it at the behest of an unknown nobleman

3

His wife sold the book treasure to Regensburg's city council for 15 kilograms of silver

THE MANUSCRIPT

This famous manuscript from the Austrian National Library in Vienna contains the most comprehensive German language Trojan cycle. The manuscript, originating from Regensburg in the 15th century, presents a German translation of the famous 13th century epic by Guido de Columnis. The enthusiasm in the Middle Ages for the legends of the fall of Troy is made clear in the magnificent miniatures and the accompanying text. This mythological tale, which fascinates to this day, was published as manuscript in the lifeworld of the 15th century. The 334 gorgeous miniatures, including some full pages, from the hand of the painter Martinus carry the beholder off into the world of courtly society at that time. The manuscript, which came into the collection of the Austrian...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 2007

- 478 pages / 37.0 × 27.5 cm
- 334 large-size miniatures (some of them full-page), richly decorated with gold and silver
- Leather binding with four clasps
- 998 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 14,800-€

3,499 €
(like new)



Guido de Columnis: The Trojan War

Wedding of Paris and Helen

The love between the Trojan prince Paris and the Spartan princess Helen was the catalyst for the bloodshed of the Trojan War. Amidst that tale of gods and men battling with one another, this is a scene of love and tranquility – the wedding of Paris and Helen, who was promised to Paris by the goddess Aphrodite.

The wedding is presented in the context of a Gothic cathedral, as witnessed through its pointed main doors. Both bride and groom are depicted as slender figures with thick, flowing locks of brown hair, small noses, pursed lips, and pink cheeks. Paris is dressed in a green tunic and tights while Helen has a long beautiful train of pink and gray. The Trojan king and queen, dressed in beautiful blue and gold brocade, flank the couple.

Alphabetum Romeanum

Vat. lat. 6852 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



The basis of the modern alphabet: symmetry and perfect form as a calligraphic masterpiece

Verona (Italy) – 1460

Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1985

- 42 pages / 18.0 × 12.5 cm
- All letters of the alphabet artfully calligraphed
- Marbled paper binding
- Commentary: German

Regularly 720-€

399 €
(like new)

Prayer Book of Charles the Bold

Ms. 37 — Getty Museum (Los Angeles, USA)



With three portraits of the Burgundian Duke: a splendidly decorated masterpiece of Burgundian illumination made for one of the richest men of his time

Flanders – 1469, ca. 1471 and ca. 1480–1490

1

This principle work of Burgundian illumination originated in several stages in Flanders between 1469 and 1490

2

Every page of the small book is incomparably elaborately adorned in splendid colors and lavish gold leaf

3

Three portraits of the commissioner, Duke Charles of Burgundy (1433–77), are to be found in the book

The Twelve Labors of Hercules

Inc. 2441 — Biblioteca Nacional de España (Madrid, Spain)



11 of 12 engravings have been preserved: the story of the ancient hero synthesized with Christian teachings

Zamora (Spain) – January 15, 1483

Vicent Garcia Editores

Valencia, 1995

- 68 pages / 27.5 × 20.5 cm
- 11 woodcuts
- Parchment binding
- 3,160 copies
- Commentary: Spanish

Regularly 590-€

279 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

During the 15th century, the court of the dukes of Burgundy was arguably the most sophisticated in Europe and heavily patronized Dutch and Flemish artists in their realm. The Prayer Book of Charles the Bold emerged in Flanders between 1469 and 1490 as the result of several stages of work. It is one of the principle works of Early Netherlandish illumination and occupies a special position in the transition between the Gothic and Renaissance styles in Northern Europe. Every page of the small book is incomparably elaborately adorned in splendid colors and lavish gold leaf, including 47 miniature and more than 360 decorative initials. The participating illuminators, including the court painter Lieven van Lathem and the Vienna Master of Maria of Burgundy, revolutionized European illumination with their tender natural depictions and their realistic people...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2007

- 318 pages / 12.4 × 9.2 cm
- 47 miniatures, more than 360 initials. Each page decorated.
- urple velvet binding, a faithful replica of the current original binding
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German, French

Regularly 4,980-€

1,499 €
(like new)



Briefly Explained: Books of Hours

The book of hours, the most beloved type of medieval manuscript, is a specially-designed prayer book for personal use both in private and in public masses based upon the “offices” or official prayers that were to be said at different intervals of the day – hence the name.

These were typically made for laypersons in artists' workshops rather than monastic scriptoria, and as such the actual wording of the prayers contained in them can vary widely from region to region. Most were small enough that they could be carried on one's person, like the Hours of Jeanne D'Evreux and were decorated in such a way that they were also fashion accessories. As such, they were highly personalized and usually featured a dedication page with their escutcheon and might even be portrayed in one or more miniatures in the text.

Some of the first big-name artists like the Limbourg Brothers, Simon Bening, and Gerard Horenbout emerged as a result of this popularity, although some of the greatest masters remain anonymous, known only by their names of convenience. The personalized book of hours is a useful window into the lives and perceptions of some of the most important figures of the Middle Ages.



Moscow Book of Hours

September: The Wine Crush

This is an exemplary calendar page written in red, blue, and gold ink with a small miniature and a colorful frame of intertwining tendrils, fruits, and flowers. The important saint's days and other holidays for the month of September each have a tiny gold leaf initial. A blue and gold “KL” initial in the upper left corner stands for Kalendarium.

This miniature shows a vintner in a red cap and blue shirt stomping grapes, a common activity in September. The interior space is portrayed with stone walls, a wooden roof, and a wonderful sense of perspective that draws the eyes to the serene blue sky outside. Gold leaf is masterfully applied to the scene, forming the frame while also highlighting the wine barrels and roof.

Moscow Book of Hours

F. 183 Nr. 446 — National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg, Russia)



Castles in enchanting landscapes and lovingly designed interiors: a tender book of hours from the heyday of the French Renaissance

Paris (France) – Around 1475

1

This French Renaissance manuscript is richly adorned with gold leaf and text written in gold ink

2

At least two illuminators, possibly one Dutch and one French, created the marvelous miniatures

3

The original patron cannot be determined because their escutcheon with a crown was scrapped off

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Moscow Book of Hours is an imposing parchment manuscript originating in Paris in the 1470s. With a total of 17 large-format miniatures and a 24-picture calendar cycle, it invites the beholder into an inventive world of enchanting landscapes with castles and lovingly-designed interior spaces. Furthermore 200 pages with gold print and 357 pages with 23 karat gold create a glamorous overall impression of the book for private devotion. Two painters, who evince a close relationship with Dutch and French miniature painting, took part in creating this masterpiece. The identity of the illuminated manuscript's patron remains unclear because of the coat of arms and crown contained in it have been scraped off...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 2007

- 470 pages / 18.5 × 13.5 cm
- 17 large scale miniatures, 24 calendar miniatures, 357 pages with 23kt gold and more than 1200 gold initials
- Brown leather binding
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 4,980 €

1,499 €
(like new)

Berlin Hours of Mary of Burgundy

78 B 12 — Kupferstichkabinett Staatliche Museen (Berlin, Germany)

Liber Precum

Ms. Lat.O.v.I.206 — National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg, Russia)



Commissioned by Emperor Maximilian I as a gift for his wife: a delightfully decorated Flemish masterpiece by the great „Master of Mary of Burgundy“

Burgundy (France) – Between 1477 and 1480



A masterpiece from Cologne: the further development of the International Gothic style and a unique selection of prayers and miniatures

Cologne (Germany) – Between 1480 and 1490

1

This masterful work from the Ghent region was commissioned by Emperor Maximilian I (1459–1519) for his wife

2

The work originated ca. 1480 from the workshop of the anonymous Master of Mary of Burgundy

3

The Incredible miniatures are surrounded by bordures of flowers, buds, vines, and insects

1

This previously unknown masterpiece of the Late Middle Ages was made in Cologne ca. 1485

2

Sophie Dorothee von Württemberg (1759–1824) brought it with her to the Russia, where she became Empress consort

3

The illustrations combine the „Soft Style“ of illumination with a newer, more realistic approach

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Berlin Hours of Mary of Burgundy originated between 1477 and 1480 in the Ghent region, commissioned by Emperor Maximilian I (1459–1519) as a gift to his wife Mary of Burgundy (1457–1482). The magnificent manuscript contains prayers and religious texts for private devotion, which are enriched by a total of 27 full-page and 47 smaller miniatures with biblical scenes. They are joined by 16 pages with particularly rich and plastic bordure decoration consisting of flowers, buds, acanthus, and butterflies. There has already been much speculation in research about the artist of this outstanding Flemish illumination. It presumably came from the Master of Mary of Burgundy, who worked at the end of the 15th century and is stylistically similar to the works of the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 1998

- 724 pages / 10.3 × 7.0 cm
- 27 full-page illustrations, 47 smaller miniatures
- Red velvet with a partially gilded sterling clasp and gilt edging
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 3,480 €

1,299 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

A previously unknown masterpiece of the Late Middle Ages was made in Cologne between 1480 and 1490: the Liber Precum, which now resides in St. Petersburg. Aside from the illumination, the work of a leading master at the time, the manuscript boast a thus-far unparalleled choice of texts. Featuring 41 full-page miniatures, the prayer section of the small-format book is arranged with the miniatures always opposite of their corresponding prayers from the Vita Christi. The illustrations combine the „Soft Style“ of illumination with a newer, more realistic approach, making them of particular interest, like other transitional works. Sophie Dorothee von Württemberg brought the manuscript with her to the Imperial Russian Court, where she became a Grand Duchess and eventually Tsarina...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



ADEVA

Graz, 2003

- 198 pages / 13.0 × 9.5 cm
- 41 full-page miniatures framed and decorated with gold
- Embossed brown leather binding with two metal clasps
- 580 copies
- Commentary: German, English

Regularly 2,980 €

1,699 €
(like new)

Book of Hours of Christoph I, Margrave of Baden-Baden

Durlach 1 — Badische Landesbibliothek (Karlsruhe, Germany)



With two portraits of the patron, Margrave Christoph I. von Baden: a Parisian masterpiece for a member of the exquisite Order of the Golden Fleece

Paris (France) – 1488

Müller & Schindler

Karlsruhe, 1978

- 216 pages / 14.7 × 10.6 cm
- 39 full-page miniatures and miniature pages with rich border decoration
- Leather binding
- 900 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 1,480 €

599 €
(like new)

Book of Hours of Louis of Orléans

Lat. Q.v.I.126 — National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg, Russia)



90 elegant miniatures and a portrait of the future King of France: a masterpiece by Jean Colombe for Louis Duke of Orléans, the later King Louis XII

Bourges (France) – 1490

1

This lavish prayer book was made by master illuminator Jean Colombe for Louis, Duke of Orléans (1462–1515)

2

The manuscript is adorned with 90 elegant miniatures and a portrait of the eventual King Louis XII (1462–1515)

3

The unusual bordure decoration is a fantastic mix of flowers, birds, exotic animals, and monsters

Prayer Book of Anne de Bretagne

MS M,50 — Morgan Library & Museum (New York, USA)



For her personal meditation and the education of the Dauphin: the „little“ prayer book of the Queen of France, Sicily, and Jerusalem

Tours (France) – 1492–1495

Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1999

- 62 pages / 12.5 × 8.0 cm
- 34 full-page miniatures, all by a masterly hand
- Burgundy red velvet in a protective case covered with scarlet leather
- 1,980 copies
- Commentary: German, English

Regularly 980 €

499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Book of Hours of Louis de Orléans originates from the French city of Bourges in 1490. It was designed by the illuminator Jean Colombe and a few of the artist-colleagues from his studio, who were largely guided by the work of another great French master, Jean Bourdichon. The small manuscript captivates through its exceptional illumination: alongside 90 elegant miniatures, the pages of the work are adorned with elaborately decorated bordures with floral decoration, images of birds, exotic animals, and fantastical monsters. Parts of the manuscript feature aphorisms, which capture the themes of the prayers and miniatures. Today the splendid small codex is regarded as one of the most outstanding manuscripts to be produced during the French Renaissance. King Louis XII of France, a great lover and patron of the arts, signed the codex when he...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



M. Moleiro Editor

Barcelona, 2002

- 232 pages / 21.5 × 14.7 cm
- 90 miniatures with lavish marginal decoration
- Dark purple velvet according to the original from the 18th century
- 987 copies
- Commentary: English, Spanish

Regularly 4,900 €

2,499 €
(like new)

Cosmography of Claudius Ptolemy

Urb. lat. 277 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



Created for Federico da Montefeltro, the bibliophile Duke of Urbino: ancient cartography in the splendid garb of the Renaissance

Florence (Italy) – 1472

1

A 1472 refashioning of the cosmography by Ptolemy (ca. 100 – ca. 170) containing 44 geographically correct maps

2

A golden Renaissance masterpiece commissioned by Federico da Montefeltro (1422–1482), Duke of Urbino

3

The work originates from ca. 150 and was lost for 1,000 years before it was rediscovered and translated



THE MANUSCRIPT

The Cosmography of Claudius Ptolemy is a world atlas that originates from Italy in 1472. It is a refashioning of the cosmography by the ancient Greek scholar Ptolemy and contains 44 geographically correct maps, 29 of which span a double page. Many text pages are elaborately adorned with numerous colorful and golden miniatures and depictions in bordures. Like all cosmographic works, it combines geography, geology, and astrology as well as addressing the historical, spiritual, and moral aspects of the medieval worldview. The large format maps and other colorful and gilded depictions were designed by talented artists of the Italian Renaissance including Francesco Rosselli and Pietro del Massaio. This magnificent manuscript was commissioned in 1471 by Federico...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1981

- 270 pages / 59.3 × 43.5 cm
- 44 maps including 29 double-pages; numerous illustrations and decorative borders
- Leather with 10 brass fittings
- 500 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 13,999 €

3,799 €
(like new)

Cosmography of Claudius Ptolemy

Depiction of Rome

Medieval Rome, named in a banderole with gold ink, is presented here in an elegantly simple frame that is also rendered in polished gold. The miniature depicts the seven hills of Rome, the Tiber in dark blue, and the remnants of the aqueduct, in addition to various churches and monuments from antiquity that are labelled in a minute hand.

The most recognizable landmarks include the Colosseum, the Pyramid of Cestius, which is depicted incorporated into the Aurelian Walls that ring the city, and the Pyramid of Romulus, which was quarried for marble used in the construction of St. Peter's Basilica. Elegant shades of pink give the miniature a dreamy aesthetic, and the spires of various churches are highlighted with gold leaf.

Dante Urbinate

Ms. Urb. lat. 365 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)

Rarity!



Owned by the Renaissance prince Federico da Montefeltro: one of the finest illuminated editions of Dante's Divine Comedy

Italy – ca. 1480

1

Federico da Montefeltro (1422–82), Duke of Urbino was a great soldier and Renaissance humanist in equal measure

2

The Duke's library comprised one of the greatest manuscripts collections of the 15th century, exceed only by the Vatican

3

The magnificent and gold-decorated miniatures originate from Guglielmo Girardi

Christine de Pizan's Letter of Othea

Ms 74 G 27 — Koninklijke Bibliotheek den Haag (The Hague, Netherlands)



From one of the first female authors in history: Christine de Pizan's Letters from Othea, the Goddess of Wisdom, with advice for the Trojan hero Hector

Paris (France) – Second half of the 15th century

1

Christine de Pizan (1364 - ca. 1430) led an unusual life and became the first independent medieval female author

2

Her famous letters from the Goddess of Wisdom to the Trojan hero Hector combine moral maxims with ancient mythology

3

The famous author and single mother worked at the court of the French King Charles V (1338–80), a center for art and culture

THE MANUSCRIPT

Dante Alighieri's Divina Commedia is one of the most significant and influential literary works ever written worldwide. This outstanding Dante manuscript was once part of the spectacular library of the dukes of Urbino before making its way into the famous Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana and features exceptionally expressive miniatures. It was created by Guglielmo Girardi at the behest of Federico da Montefeltro, between the years 1478 and 1480 at the ducal court. The Duke of Urbino was a leading patron of the arts in Renaissance Italy with discerning tastes and one of the greatest manuscripts collections of the 15th century. The manuscript at hand was surely a highlight of this famous collection, distinguished for its vivacious colors and neatly written text by the scribe Matteo Contugi...



THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

Vatican City, 1965

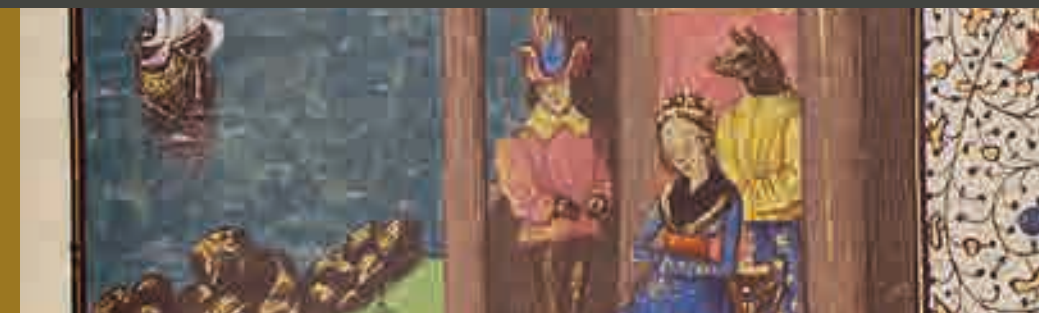
- 594 pages / 37.8 × 24.1 cm
- 3 full-page and 117 large miniatures and 97 ornamental borders
- Parchment binding
- 1,990 copies
- Commentary: Italian

Regularly 3,980-€

2,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Christine de Pizan was a widowed mother of three at the age of 25 and instead of remarrying or entering a nunnery, she used her extensive education to become a copyist and author in her own right and live independently. This made her the first professional laywoman of letters in Europe. Although she has a diverse body of work, she primarily wrote philosophical and moral texts regarding the role of women in society. The work at hand consists of a series of 100 fictitious letters from an ancient Goddess of Wisdom named Othea to the fifteen-year-old Trojan hero Hector, which instruct him on how to become a true knight. It is splendidly illustrated by 98 mostly half-page miniatures of the highest quality as well as artful bordures, leafy tendrils, and decorative initials. Artists from...



THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Müller & Schindler

Simbach am Inn, 2009

- 192 pages / 20.0 × 13.5 cm
- 98 miniatures. Each painted page is adorned with delicate borders
- Blue raw silk in the style of the original 15th century binding of the book
- 990 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 4,980-€

1,999 €
(like new)

Speculum Animae

Esp. 544 — Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)



The famous „Mirror of the Soul“: religious texts and biblical scenes in 75 wonderful miniatures by Sister Isabel de Villena

Valencia (Spain) – Late 15th century

1

The work by Sister Isabel de Villena (1430–90) addresses the Passion of the Christ and other religious themes

2

Sister Isabel was the illegitimate daughter of the Marqués de Villena (1384–1434), a high-ranking Spanish noble

3

No less than 75 miniatures illustrate this content in delightful, subtle pen drawings

Les Triomphe de Petrarque

Cod. 2581|Cod. 2582 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



With 86 impressive miniatures from Rouen: one of the most popular works of the Early Renaissance in a magnificently illuminated luxury manuscript

Rouen (France) – ca. 1500

1

An allegorical tale of the triumphs of Love, Chastity, Glory, Time, Death, and Eternity

2

The Trionfi by Francesco Petrarca (1304–74) was one of most popular works of the early Renaissance

3

A masterpiece of French illumination from Rouen with 84 impressive miniatures, complimented by 1,800 golden initials

THE MANUSCRIPT

This wonderful Spanish manuscript of the Speculum Animae originated in the late 15th century as a work by Sister Isabel de Villena, who was from the highest social circles of the Kingdom of Castile. She was relatively obscure until recently, but is now highly regarded as a proto-feminist author alongside Christine de Pizan. The Mirror of the Soul contains religious meditations about biblical themes, whereby the focal point lies on the life of the Christ, which is traced from the Annunciation through the Passion. No less than 75 miniatures illustrate this content, including 53 full-page miniatures, which consist of delightful, subtle pen drawings, which are also painstakingly colored. The figures are dressed in contemporary clothing and headdresses, which gives the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Edilan

Madrid, 1992

- 88 pages / 33.0 × 25.0 cm
- 75 miniatures, 63 of them at full-page
- Mudejar binding in leather
- 1,500 copies
- Commentary: Spanish



Regularly 2,900-€

1,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

86 large miniatures in frame and 1,800 golden initials adorn this fine French manuscript containing the work of the famous humanist Francesco Petrarca: the Trionfi, which is counted among the most popular works of the great Renaissance poet. The allegorical poem evokes the Roman ceremony of triumph but replaces the conquering generals with allegorical figures such as Love, Chastity, Death, and Fame stands squarely in the tradition of his time and is simultaneously an expression of Petrarch's literary creativity. It is also filled with intimate autobiographical references alternate with moralizing sections – the Laura who Petrarch profoundly revered naturally stands at the center of the work. This manuscript originated from Rouen in the early 16th century presents...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



De Agostini/UTET

Rome/Turin, 2011

- 597 folios / 32.5 × 21.0 cm
- 86 large miniatures in frame and 1,800 golden initials
- Leather binding with gold embossing on the interior edges
- 499 copies
- Commentary: Italian



Regularly 5,00-€

2,499 €
(like new)

Mayer van den Bergh Breviary

Mayer van den Bergh Museum (Antwerp, Belgium)



Rarity!

A virtually untouched masterpiece from the Maximilian Master, Master of James IV of Scotland, Gerard Horenbout, and Gerard David

Porta.o. – 1495–1510

1

It was likely commissioned as a gift by or for King Manuel I of Portugal (1469–1521)

2

Adorned by 80 splendid miniatures including 36 full-pages and 12 labors of the months

3

Also furnished with 148 decorative borders, 9 historiated initials, and countless smaller initials

Hours of Bonaparte Ghislieri

Ms. Yates Thompson 29 — British Library (London, United Kingdom)



With a magnificent enamel binding and masterful miniatures: a splendid collaboration of the greatest masters of the Italian Renaissance

Bologna (Italy) – 1503

1

A breathtaking collaboration of the most famous and gifted artists of the Italian Renaissance

2

Amico Aspertini, Perugino, Lorenza Costa, Francesco Francia, and Matteo da Milano contributed

3

The frames of the manuscript feature flowers, faces, architectural elements, and gold leaf

THE MANUSCRIPT

Although little is known about the history of this extraordinary Flemish manuscript from ca. 1510–15, its high quality and the instructions in Portuguese it contains point to King Manuel I of Portugal as a possible patron or recipient. This masterpiece was purchased by the art dealer and collector Fritz Mayer van den Bergh in 1898 for the enormous sum of 35,500 francs. The Mayer van den Bergh Breviary has survived to the present in remarkably pristine condition, indicating that it was little used and remained safely stored for most of the last 500 years. Its artistic program consists of about 80 miniatures including 36 full-page miniatures, 12 labors of the month in the calendar, 148 decorative borders, 9 historiated initials, and countless smaller initials. This splendor is the result of the collective efforts of...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



C. Weckesser

Brussels, 1932

- 164 pages / 22.4 × 16.0 cm
- 36 full-page miniatures, 12 calendar pages, 20 small miniatures, 9 historiated initials, 148 decorative borders
- Linen binding
- 300 copies
- Commentary: English

Regularly 1,480-€

999 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Book of Hours of Perugino was made by some of the most famous artists of the Italian Renaissance ca. 1503 including Pietro de Cristoforo Vannucci, Amico Aspertini, Lorenzo Costa, Francesco Francia, and Matteo da Milano. Used for private masses and meditation, the prayer book contains an incredible variety of illumination. The five full-page miniatures have the appearance of small panel paintings furnished with particularly admirable decorative frames as well as 15 large, historiated initials and countless smaller decorative initials colored red, blue, green, and gold. Inspired by the artworks of the Domus Aurea, the “golden house” of Emperor Nero, discovered in 1480, the artists achieved a level of naturalism not seen since antiquity. The charming work combines the most varied...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Franco Cosimo Panini

Modena, 2008

- 274 pages / 20.7 × 14.5 cm
- 32 pages of illustrations and more than 1,000 gilded initials
- Morocco binding adorned two centrally positioned roundels
- 980 copies
- Commentary: Italian

Regularly 7,500-€

2,799 €
(like new)

Book of Drolleries - The Croy Hours

Cod. 1858 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



Luxury Edition!

Wonderful figures of people, animals, and mythical creatures: perhaps the most imaginative masterpiece by Gerard David, Gerard Horenbout, and Simon Bening

Bruges / Ghent (Belgium) – Between 1510 and 1520

1

Named after its first owner and the 200 whimsical marginal decorations it contains (drolleries)

2

Additionally contains 58 full-page miniatures by the famous Flemish masters Gerard David, Gerard Hohenbout, and Simon Bening

3

This outstanding manuscript was the prized possession of Emperor Charles VI (1685–1740) inter alia



THE MANUSCRIPT

The Croy Hours, which originated between 1510 and 1520 in Bruges, has so many depictions of small decorative images in the margins, so-called drolleries, that it has become known as The Book of Drolleries. Also known as grotesques, drolleries are fantastical marginal decorations or vignettes that depict fabulous hybrid creatures from men, animals, and plants. With over 200 drolleries, The Croy Hours is a unique book treasure that enchants every beholder with its splendid illustrations, which also include 58 splendid miniatures. This treasure chest of late medieval illumination is the work of some of the greatest masters of the Ghent-Bruges school: Gerard Hohenbout and Simon Bening are responsible for most of the manuscripts décor but also collaborated with the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1993

- 366 pages / 19.5 x 13.7 cm
- 58 colourful miniatures, over 200 fantastic drolleries, as well as a great number of decorative elements
- The deluxe edition in calf leather
- 290 copies
- Commentary: German, Französisch



Regularly 4,500-€

1,599 €
(like new)

Book of Drolleries - The Croy Hours

June: Storing Hay

Aside from this codex's namesake "drolleries," this manuscript is distinguished by its calendar pages, possibly from the hand of Simon Bening. Bening took the typical labor of the month and enhanced it with wonderful landscapes and even cityscapes. Each month received two such depictions in the manuscript, including the present recto page from the month of June.

Beneath the Cancer zodiac sign, this labor of the month shows the aftermath of the verso page (not pictured), in which hay is harvested. The dried hay is being bundled and hoisted into a warehouse by means of a pulley. Although appearing in the margins around the text written in red and brown ink, the architecture to the right and the landscape to the left indicate a masterly use of perspective.

Sea Chart of Andrea Benincasa

Borg. VIII — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



From one of the most famous cartographers of the Italian Renaissance: the Mediterranean region in beautiful colors

Ancona (Italy) – 1508

Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1984

- 1 chart / 99.3 × 64.2 cm
- Comes rolled
- Commentary: German

~~Regularly 980-€~~

499 €
(like new)

Vatican Office of the Virgin

Vat. lat. 10293 — Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican City, State of the Vatican City)



A luxury work for the nobility, today preserved in the Vatican Library: Flemish book illumination with golden accents and a silver splendid binding

Bruges (Belgium) – Early 16th century

Belser Verlag

Zurich, 1987

- 474 pages / 10.5 × 7.8 cm
- 34 full-page miniatures, 19 elaborated initials and more than 1200 colored initials
- Leather binding
- 2,900 copies
- Commentary: German

~~Regularly 1,980-€~~

499 €
(like new)

ZIEREIS FACSIMILES

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Here: the handover of the facsimile we made of the original constitution of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate to the President of the State Parliament, Hendrik Hering



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WWW.FACSIMILES.COM

Primer of Claude de France

MS 159 — Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge, United Kingdom)



More than just a „children’s book“: the magnificently illuminated primer for the daughter of the French queen Anne de Bretagne with beautiful insights into the medieval world

Romorantin, Loire Valley (France) – 1505

1

Guido Mazzoni’s (ca. 1445–1518) work belongs to one of the rarest book genres of the Middle Ages: children’s books

2

The educational codex for Princess Claude de France (1499–1524), daughter of Queen Anne de Bretagne, shows inter alia the alphabet in various scripts

3

Above all, the painter created realistic insights into medieval cities, Renaissance palaces, and natural landscapes

Epistolary of Frederick the Wise

Ms. EL. F. 2 — Thüringer Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek (Jena, Germany)



A magnificent prayer book for the Prince-Elector of Saxony featuring a splendid miniature based on a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer

Nuremberg (Germany) – 1507–1509

1

Frederick III (1463–1525) was a generous patron of the arts during the German Renaissance

2

The text consists of epistle readings for 18 feast days beginning at Christmas

3

It is adorned by 3 full-page miniatures, 17 historiated initials, and rich tendril frames

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Primer of Claude de France was created by the Italian court painter Guido Mazzoni, considered to be one of the most gifted and versatile artists of his time, in 1505 at the behest of the French queen, Anne de Bretagne, who was a highly educated patron of the arts. It belongs to one of the rarest book genres of the Middle Ages, namely children’s books and probably helped the future French Queen Claude learn to read. The codex depicts the alphabet with various types of letters as well as the most important Christian prayers of the time and is adorned with gorgeous miniatures resembling watercolors, which are set in elaborate golden frames. Its décor includes 2 full-page miniatures, 36 smaller miniatures, 12 vignettes, and 22 decorative initials as well as artful golden frames for...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Quaternio Verlag

Lucerne, 2012

- 20 pages / 26.0 × 17.5 cm
- 36 miniatures, 12 vignettes, 2 full-page illuminations and 22 initials on gold ground
- Reddish-brown leather
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German, English



Regularly 2,100-€

1,399 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

This gorgeous, well-preserved manuscript has been stored in the Jena University Library since 1547 and is an exemplary specimen of the German Renaissance. Frederick III, Prince-Elector of Saxony, commissioned the manuscript ca. 1507 from the Nuremberg workshop of Jakob Elsner. In addition to the richly adorned text pages at the beginning of each pericope, 3 full-page miniatures and 17 historiated initials embellish the manuscript. The most famous of these images is a full-page miniature of the Entombment and Lamentation of Christ in a mountainous landscape based on a woodcut by the great Albrecht Dürer. Its text consists of epistle readings for 18 feast days between Christmas and the celebration of a church consecration...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Edition Leipzig

Leipzig, 1983

- 76 pages / 35.0 × 25.0 cm
- 3 full-page miniatures, 17 historiated initials, richly decorated with gold
- Richly decorated splendor binding with colored miniature under glass
- 800 copies, Collotype Edition!
- Commentary: German



Regularly 3,800-€

1,899 €
(like new)

Briefly Explained: Chronicles

Medieval chronicles represent some of the most important sources of information about life during the Middle Ages. Not only do they provide important signposts for major events like coronations and battles, but they are full of information that historians can glean for clues about medieval attitudes and various aspects of daily life.

How these chronicles present historical events is just as important as what they are actually betraying. Medieval chronicles ranged from world chronicles combining biblical history with the events from classical and medieval history, to more specific chronicles dealing with a certain dynasty, city, or knightly order.

Chronicles could be relatively small and unadorned record books, but also included large, extravagantly-illuminated codices by some of the greatest masters of medieval illumination and were made throughout the Middle Ages, with some particularly fine examples counted among the first specimens of European printing.



Swiss Chronicle of Wernher Schodoler

Execution of the Defenders of Greifensee

After a four-week long siege, the forces of the Old Swiss Confederacy captured the town of Greifensee on May 27th, 1444. The so-called Murder of Greifensee occurred the next day when all but two of the 64 defenders of Greifensee Castle were beheaded including their leader, Wildhans von Breitenlandenberg. Even in times of war, the mass execution of men who had surrendered was a heinous act.

The executioner readies a blow as the latest victim kneels, his already beheaded comrades lying on the ground. More wait on the right as soldiers from the various confederated cantons watch, their banners and spears filling the background like a forest. To underline their powerlessness, the peasants of Greifensee are depicted small in the foreground.

Swiss Chronicle of Wernher Schodoler

MS 62 — Leopold-Sophien-Bibliothek (Überlingen, Germany) and others



Going back to the works of Diebold Schilling: a richly illustrated chronicle of Switzerland with completely new landscapes

Bremgarten (Switzerland) – Between 1510 and 1535

1

This comprehensive illustrated chronicle represents a milestone in Swiss historiography

2

The work has perspectival landscapes that were completely innovative for the Middle Ages

3

The author Wernher Schodoler (1490–1515) based his work on the chronicles of Diebold Schilling the Elder (ca. 1445–85)

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Swiss Chronicle of Wernher Schodoler is a comprehensive three-volume illustrated chronicle that is considered to be a milestone of Swiss historiography. Previous city chronicles, which were critically reworked here, served as the textual foundation of this ambitious project. Its illustrations show landscapes using perspectives that were completely innovative for the Middle Ages and also document the transition into the book art of the Renaissance. The chronicle is primarily concerned with the development of the Swiss Confederacy, placing special emphasis on the series of wars in the Late Middle Ages that established their reputation for military success as well as their independence from the Holy Roman Empire. At the same time, the 130 pen and ink drawings...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1980–1983

- 1,048 pages / 39.5 × 29.5 cm
- 326 illustrations
- volumes are bound in finely executed pigskin covers with blind toolings, brass fittings and clasps
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 7,500 €

2,999 €
(like new)

Older Prayerbook of Emperor Charles V

Cod. Vindob. 1859 — Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna, Austria)



76 miniatures from the Ghent-Bruges school in artistic perfection: the personal prayer book of the most powerful man in Europe

Ghent or Bruges (Belgium) – 1516–1519

ADEVA

Graz, 1976

- 512 pages / 15.3 × 8.3 cm
- 76 miniatures from the Gent-Bruges School and numerous colored initials
- Green velvet binding
- Commentary: German

Regularly 780-€

399 €
(like new)

1

One of the greatest works by Simon Bening (ca. 1483–1561) depicts flowers of every kind in detail

2

The accompanying insects and birds appear incomparably plastic and realistic

3

Almost every page of the private devotional and prayer book is illustrated in this way with full-page miniatures

Golden Calendar of Albrecht Glockendon from 1526

Ms. germ. oct. 9 — Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin, Germany)



Ein funkeln des Juwel der Germanen Renaissance: Goldene Kalenderbilder des berühmten Nuremberger Malers Albrecht Glockendon

Nuremberg (Germany) – 1526

Müller & Schindler

Simbach am Inn, 1977

- 32 pages / 14.0 × 10.0 cm
- 14 gilded calendar miniatures
- Green leather binding
- Commentary: German

Regularly 980-€

399 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

Sometime in the time period from 1520 to 1525, the famous Flemish book artist, Simon Bening, created one of his greatest works, namely the so-called Flowers Book of Hours. He completed the illuminated manuscript in his workshops in Ghent and Bruges and furnished it with incomparable full-page miniatures and marginal decoration on each page of text. The variety of forms of design that Bening chose for the private prayer book is impressive and he modelled his miniatures on the work of Hugo van der Goes and Martin Schongauer. Aside from the 70 enchanting full-page miniatures, the manuscript contains over 300 pages showing a wealth of decorative motifs consisting of buds and flowers of every kind as well as small birds and insects, which appear incomparably plastic and realistic. 12 lovingly designed calendar pictures show...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 1991

- 438 pages / 16.5 × 11.2 cm
- Each single page illuminated, among them 70 miniature pages
- Red velvet binding
- 690 copies
- Commentary: German, French

Regularly 2,980-€

1,199 €
(like new)



German Prayer Book of the Margravine of Brandenburg

Hs. Durlach 2 — Badische Landesbibliothek (Karlsruhe, Germany)



Created by 18-year-old Narcissus Renner and his father: a young illuminator and his extraordinarily beautiful, gold-shining miniatures

Augsburg (Germany) – 1520

Simon Bening Stein Quadriptych

W 442 — Walters Art Museum (Baltimore, USA)



The most unusual work of the famous Simon Bening: 64 masterful miniatures in a picturesque wood-framed set

Bruges (Belgium) – 1523–1526

1

This masterpiece of German illumination was made according to the wishes of Susanna von Bayern (1502–1543)

2

Created in golden splendor by the 18-year-old Augsburg illuminator Narcissus Renner

3

Particularly impressive are the various ornamental borders and miniatures like the depiction of a medieval hunt

1

One of the most unusual works from the hand of the most important illuminator of the 16th century

2

The Bruges artist Simon Bening (ca. 1483–1561) set 64 miniatures in a set of folding frames

3

The miniatures are undoubtedly among the best of 16th century Flemish art

THE MANUSCRIPT

One of the most beautiful and splendidly furnished manuscripts of German book art was made: the German Prayer Book of the Margravine of Brandenburg. The work was completed in 1520 for the occasion of Susanna of Bavaria's wedding to Casimir, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach and was decorated in strict accordance with her wishes. 47 large-format, impressive miniatures illustrate the text and 214 pages of the manuscript feature frames inspired by Flemish, Italian and German examples. This splendid combination of artistic influences was an early triumph by an Augsburg illuminator named Narziß Renner, who was only 18 years old at the time. Throughout the manuscript, there are hidden indicators of the private life of the young marchioness in its...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2002

- 378 pages / 15.2 × 10.8 cm
- A total of 214 picture and text pages are framed by Flemish, Italian or German-inspired borders.
- Black suede binding
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German, French

Regularly 4,980-€

1,499 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

A unique masterpiece from one of the greatest miniaturists of all time: Simon Bening. These 64 spectacular miniatures were painted on vellum, mounted on four panels, and set within a gilded wooden frame. It is not known who commissioned these miniatures or in what form they were originally meant to appear, in fact, little is known about the provenance of the mysterious masterpiece before the 19th century. Nevertheless, they are counted the finest works of 16th century Netherlandish art and are distinguished by airy scenes of great intensity and sumptuous colors. They consist almost entirely of closeups full of iconographic details to emphasize the people and events. The pictorial narrative begins with the legend of Mary, covers the life of Christ, and ends with images of the Ascension of Mary and the...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Müller & Schindler

Simbach am Inn, 2012

- 4 frames à ca. 33.8 × 27.0 cm
- 64 Miniatures mounted on 4 wooden frames à 7.2 × 5.3 cm
- 800 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 4,900-€

2,499 €
(like new)

Eton Choirbook

Ms 178 — Eton College Library (Eton, United Kingdom)



Presenting 24 composers: the largest collection of the Latin choral tradition in pre-Reformation England

Eton (United Kingdom) – 1490-1502

1

This manuscript represents the largest collection of the Latin choral tradition in pre-Reformation England

2

The valuable music manuscript probably originated between 1490 and 1501 in Eton College

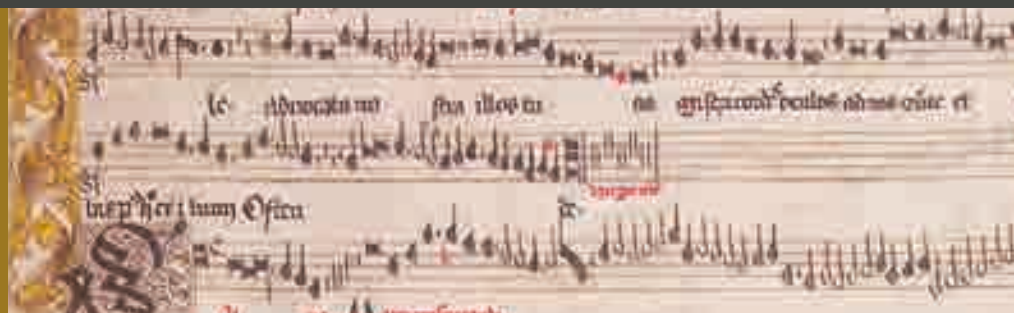
3

24 composers are listed including Robert Wylkynson, John Browne, Gilbert Banastre, and William Cornysne

THE MANUSCRIPT

One of the greatest collections of Latin choir music to survive the English Reformation originated at Eton College between 1490 and 1501. The Eton Choirbook contains 64 compositions on 260 surviving pages, which include nine Magnificats, a Passion, and 54 motets, which were primarily sung in the evening after the prayer to the honor of the Virgin Mary. Pieces from 24 composers are assembled in the cultural artifact, whereby the Englishman John Browne (1453-ca. 1500) is represented most often. Charming initials are distributed throughout the entire manuscript, which gentrify the otherwise unostentatious choir book.

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



DIAMM

London, 2010

- 264 pages / 42.6 x 30.6 cm
- 9 Magnificats, 1 Passion, 54 Motetten
- Buckram binding
- Commentary: English



Regularly 380 €

279 €
(like new)

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Prayers of Repentance by Albrecht Glockendon

Clm 10013 — Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich, Germany)



A masterpiece illuminated by Albrecht Glockendon: the story of King David and Bathsheba as highlights of late book illumination

Nuremberg (Germany) – 1532/1533

1

The content of the illustrations depict medieval examples of the familiar story of David and Bathsheba

2

John II, Count Palatine of Simmern (1492–1557), a wealthy art patron, commissioned Albrecht Glockendon with this work

3

Counted as one of the last highlights of illumination before the triumphal march of book printing



THE MANUSCRIPT

John II, Count Palatine of Simmern (1492–1557) was a powerful lord who was also an enthusiastic patron of the arts, including sculptures, who also allowed for the establishment of printing in Simmern. Nonetheless, he commissioned one of the last truly masterful illuminated manuscripts as a gift for his youngest son, which was created ca. 1532/33. Primarily focused on the biblical story of David and Bathsheba, the text follows the King of the Israelites as he falls into sin before redeeming himself through penitence. It is adorned by 9 large miniatures, some of them taking up a full page, as well as 19 artful initials, including one historiated initial. The Old Testament story is set in the Renaissance with figures fashionably dressed in the style of 16th century and scenes set in contemporary architecture...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Faksimile Verlag

Lucerne, 2010

- 52 pages / 13.8 × 9.9 cm
- 9 large-size miniatures and 19 initials, including one historiated initial
- Dark brown leather binding
- 980 copies
- Commentary: German



Regularly 2,480-€

999 €
(like new)

Prayers of Repentance by Albrecht Glockendon for John II of Palatinate-Simmern

David Hands Uriah his Death Sentence

After seducing and impregnating Bathsheba, King David ordered her husband Uriah the Hittite, one of his elite warriors, to return from battle to rest and spend time with his wife to make him think that the child was his. Uriah chose to stay with the palace soldiery instead, claiming a code of honor with his fellow warriors still in battle, pictured in the background.

With his initial plan confounded, David, pictured left with a gold chain and fur cloak, hands to Uriah, dressed in late-medieval plate armor, his own death sentence. Specifically, an order to his commander Joab to place Uriah in the front lines and allow him to be separated from the other soldiers. This dastardly deed is presented in the splendor of the French Renaissance.

Duchess Dorothea's Prayer Book

no. Ob.6.II.4489 — Biblioteka Uniwersytecka Mikołaj Kopernik w Toruniu (Toruń, Poland)



An early print with beautiful bordures painted by Albrecht Glockendon: the personal prayer book of the Protestant Duchess of Prussia

Nuremberg (Germany) – 1536

1

Albrecht, Duke of Prussia (1490–1568) and his wife Dorothea were ardent Protestants and patrons of the arts

2

Created in Nuremberg by Arnold Wenck and Nikolaus Glockendon according to the wishes of the Duchess

3

The text was precisely printed, however all border decorations were painted by hand

Prayer Book of Elector Maximilian I of Bavaria

Clm 23640 — Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich, Germany)



Created in the court workshop of Emperor Rudolf II: realism and amazing details in enchanting depictions of animals and plants in a treasure of late book illumination

Prague (Czech Republic) – 16th century

1

A gem from the court workshop of Emperor Rudolf II (1552–1612) in Prague housed in a gilded silver-enamel book jacket

2

The fine specimen of late illumination was made ca. 1600 for Prince-Elector Maximilian I of Bavaria (1573–1651)

3

The marginal decorations and miniatures of the manuscript are marked by an astounding level of realism

THE MANUSCRIPT

The princely Prussian couple Dorothea and Albrecht were completely devoted to Protestant beliefs and shaped their rule in accordance with the teachings of the Protestant faith. Duke Albrecht commissioned numerous prayer and devotional books for the religious education of his young wife Dorothea, all of them of high worth and made with exceptional diligence. Duchess Dorothea's Prayer Book, which was made in 1536 in the Nuremberg workshop of the artist Nikolaus Glockendon, represents her most splendid codex. The printed book was elaborately decorated by hand with high-quality colors and precious gold leaf in style of the great handwritten and hand-illuminated books of hours by Flemish and Dutch illuminators. Furthermore, it is furnished with...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Orbis Pictus

Pelplin, 2011

- 148 pages / 17.5 × 12.0 cm
- Imaginative borders
- Jewellery binding in black velvet, fitted with original intricately cast and forged silver edge protectors, studs
- 299 copies
- Commentary: English, Polish

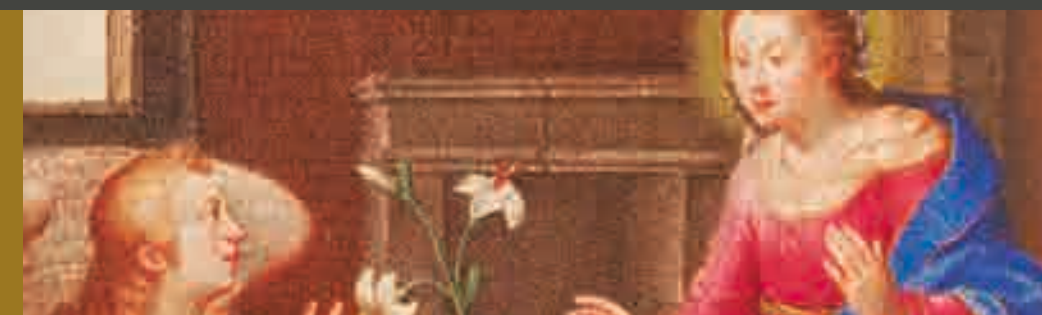
Regularly 1,450-€

999 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

A gem from the court workshop of Rudolf II in Prague, which came into the possession of Prince-Elector Maximilian I of Bavaria and bears his name today and as such, the precious prayer book is presented in the full splendor of late illumination ca. 1600. Maximilian, occasionally called „the Great“, was a powerful Catholic ruler during the 30 Years' War and a major patron of the arts. His splendid prayer book likely originated at the behest of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II, whose court was in Prague. It is filled with impressive depictions of flowers and animals in astonishing realism alongside the nine wonderful miniature pages. This book treasure is additionally crowned by its spectacular binding, a precious silver-enamel book jacket by Hans Lecker, the most important goldsmith from Nuremberg, created in the year 1574...

THE FACSIMILE EDITION



Coron Verlag

Stuttgart, 1986

- 132 folios / 14.0 × 8.8 cm
- 9 full-page miniatures; numerous depictions of plants and animals
- Red duchesse natural silk binding and silver enamel book cover
- 250 copies
- Commentary: German

Regularly 5,800-€

2,799 €
(like new)

Contrafactur der Vornebster Stät der Welt

North West University Library (Potchefstroom, Südafrika)



What we know about medieval cities today: 90 selected cityscapes from the compendium by Franz Hogenberg and Georg Braun

Cologne (Germany) – 1574–1618

Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 1999

- 248 pages / 43.0 × 70.0 cm
- 56 double-pages with 90 cityscapes
- Cowhide with elaborated gold and blind embossing and gilt-edging on three sides
- Commentary (beigebunden) German

Regularly 1,698 €

299 €
(like new)

Treatise of Architecture and Machinery of Juan de Herrera

Leg. 258 — Archivo General (Simancas, Spain)



From the builder of the famous El Escorial: a practical treatise for early modern engineers and architects

Spain – Probably 1575

1

An engineering treatise by the famous architect of Spain's El Escorial: Juan de Herrera (1530–97)

2

The treatise is a combination of theoretical texts and various practical diagrams

3

The function of pulleys and other mechanical devices for construction is explicitly explained

Mercator Atlas of 1595



The template for all subsequent atlases: Gerardus Mercator's posthumously published picture atlas from 1595

Germany – 1595

Coron Verlag

Gütersloh, 2004

- 258 pages / 45.0 × 33.0 cm
- 57 colorized double-page maps and 4 title pages
- Finest cowhide with rich blind and gold embossing and decoration
- Commentary (beigebunden) German

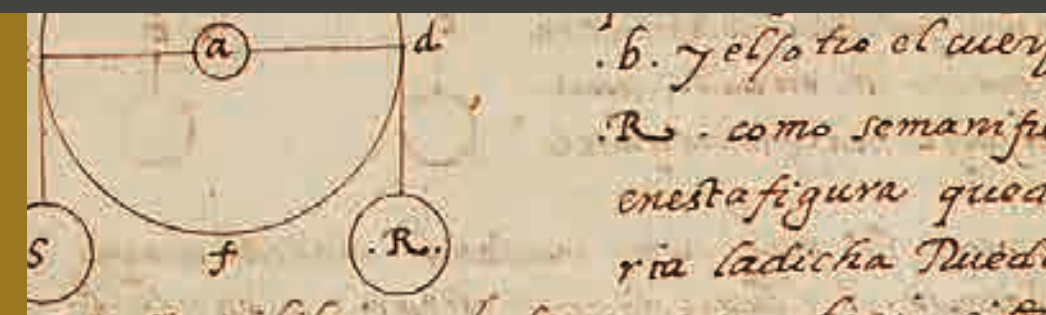
Regularly 1,698 €

299 €
(like new)

THE MANUSCRIPT

König Philipp II. von Spain war ein großer Kunstmäzen. Das berühmteste und beeindruckendste Werk, das mit ihm in Verbindung gebracht wird, ist der Königspalast und das Kloster El Escorial, das größte erhaltene Renaissancegebäude der Welt, das 1584 fertiggestellt wurde. Die Arbeiten an dem gigantischen Komplex Juan de Herrera übertragen. Um dieses und andere Bauprojekte für den König verständlicher zu machen, verfasste der Architekt eine Abhandlung in der Tradition des römischen Schriftstellers, Architekten, Zivil- und Militäringenieurs Vitruv, in der er verschiedene Prinzipien des Bauwesens und des Maschinenbaus, wie zum Beispiel die Verwendung von Flaschenzügen, erläuterte. Er verfasste die Abhandlung zwischen 1567 und 1577, während die Bauarbeiten an El Escorial noch voll im Gange waren.

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