



*LES ENLUMINURES*

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presents

*In Pursuit of Manuscripts:  
A Gentle Madness?*



exhibition and sale

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open every day, except Monday,  
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*LES ENLUMINURES*

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# introduction



This exhibition explores the idea of the medieval origins of manuscripts and their collecting, then and now. We have cast ourselves in the role of detectives on a sort of treasure hunt searching for clues of provenance (from the Latin *provenire*, "to come forth") from the earliest moment in a manuscript's history to the most recent. We have assembled manuscripts on paper and parchment, with and without original bindings, in Latin and in the vernacular, with and without pictures. Some are pretty, others plain, some big, others small. With a little curiosity, some patience, and a certain amount of keen-witted observation, all those who pursue medieval manuscripts can come to appreciate the secrets each and every one of these volumes holds. Come join us in the hunt!



## places

Public and private libraries have existed for millennia. There is the famous example from Antiquity of the great Library of Alexandria celebrated in the construction in 2003 of a new modern national library near the same site. Never equal to the Library of Alexandria, monastic libraries in the Middle Ages became the chief repositories of manuscripts for at least a thousand years. More often than not clues preserved in the manuscript lead us to the library where it once belonged. Here we explore medieval provenance: abbeys, churches, and other foundations. Examples come from the famous Basilica of St. Paul's outside the Walls in Rome, the Franciscan church of St. Nicolai in Carpi, the chapter house of Autun Cathedral, the Collegial Church of Saint-Barnard-de-Romans in the Drôme, and elsewhere. Just knowing the original home of a manuscript helps give it a unique personality.

### TM 263

**Sacramentary (use of the Cathedral of Elne)**

**In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment**

**Eastern Pyrenees (Catalonia), Elne, c. 1150-1200**

This is the oldest of a small group of manuscripts, perhaps made under the bishopric of the powerful Uldagar, that witness the transformation of the Visigothic into the Franco-Roman liturgy in this important center in the Pyrenees.

80.000 €

### TM 271

**Breviary (use of Autun)**

**In Latin, manuscript on parchment**

**Central France (Autun), c. 1460-80?**

Autun was one of the most important pilgrimage sites and thriving trading centers in the later Middle Ages. This utilitarian manuscript for the use of Autun most likely served a canon of the Cathedral of St.-Lazare where he said his daily offices.

13.000 €

### TM 282

**Collectarium, Use of Saint-Barnard-de-Romans (Diocese of Vienne)**

**In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment**

**Southeastern France, Romans-sur-Isère (Drôme), c. 1450-1475**

This manuscript is securely localized in the Abbey or Collegial Church of Saint-Barnard-de-Romans in the Drôme. Only one other office book with this provenance is known, and the present manuscript survives as the most complete liturgical book from the abbey.

25.000 €

TM 281

Processional (Dominican)

In Latin and French, manuscript on parchment

France, c. 1500-1550 (?)

This small portable Processional with musical notation was copied for Dominican Nuns in a French-speaking area, for the rubrics are in French. Likely in its original binding, the manuscript is a lovely example of the art of the late medieval book by a very accomplished scribe.

15.000 €

TM 275

[Register of Toll Charges for Tarascon, *Lo registre del peage de Tarascon*]

In Provençal with some Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment

Southern France, Provence (Tarascon-sur-Rhône), c. 1385-1400

Earliest known copy of the toll registers for Tarascon in southern France in an original binding and written in Provençal, which in renders the manuscript extremely scarce. Local taxation and trade practices come alive in the text-a working copy for daily use that differs from the edited, and later, record of the text.

40.000 €

TM 279

Ordinances and Proceedings (Posturas?) for the Cofradía mayor de Medinaceli  
(Diocese of Sigüenza)

In Spanish (Castilian), illuminated manuscript on parchment

Spain, Castile and León [town of Medinaceli, province of Soria], before 1383, with additions dated 1392

This is the official copy (for presentation?) of the ordinances of the Spanish Cofradia Mayor in Medinaceli, written entirely in Castilian and illuminated. Unpublished and previously unknown, this appears to be the oldest surviving document of this confraternity.

18.000 €

TM 219

[JOHANNES ANDREAE et alia]. *Summarium clementinorum and Summarium sexti libri decretalium*

In Latin, manuscript on paper

Italy, likely Rome?, c. 1500-1515

This pocket-sized manuscript was for the personal use of the prior of the famous church and monastery, Saint Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome. It contains just the summaries of the Decretals from the Clementines and the Liber Sextus, which are most unusually written out entirely in red ink.

15.000 €

TM 168

PETRUS DE UBALDIS IUNIOR [PETRUS DE PERUSIO], attr.

[*Commentarium super Decretales Gregorii IX or Lectura super quibusdam titulis lib. II. Decretalium Gregorii IX*]

In Latin, manuscript on paper

Northern Italy, perhaps Perugia?, first quarter of the 15th c.

"This book comes from the place of San Nicolas in Carpi"-so reads an inscription on the first folio. A Franciscan foundation, San Nicolas in Carpi was located near Bologna, an important center of law, and it preserved a chained library.

30.000 €

TM 66

**DOMENICO CAVALCA**, *Il Credo di Dio*

In Italian, illuminated manuscript on parchment

Italy, Florence, Certosa of San Lorenzo, dated 1471

Written and illuminated in the Certosa of San Lorenzo in Florence, a library dispersed in 1866, and signed and dated by a recorded scribe from the monastery, Francesco da Pisa, the present copy emerges as an important work "by the father of Italian prose" that helps reconstruct this well-known scriptorium.

26.000 €

TM 178

[**POPE CLEMENT V**] Papal Bull and Briefs confirming Pacts between Venice and Ferrara

In Latin, manuscript on parchment

Italy, Venice (?), slightly after 1313

Containing documents on the papal crusade against Venice, this manuscript once belonged to an archive largely destroyed in 1385 of the "Magistrato del Cattaver," the office that advised the Doge on financial matters and for which the text would therefore have had special import.

8.500 €

TM 276

Franciscan Breviary for Day Offices

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment

Germany, Trier, c. 1255-1260

The Franciscans were in Trier very early, as this Breviary witnesses. Its importance to liturgists can hardly be exaggerated, since it was copied very soon after the adoption of the liturgy of the Roman Curia and the reforms of the liturgy introduced by Haymo of Faversham in the 1240s.

45.000 €



*scribes*

Scribes were thought of as copying God's commands from their inner hearts, so their physical labor was directly related to the moral discipline they derived from serving God. This did not prevent them--conversely, it probably encouraged them--from taking satisfaction in their work, which they often expressed through signatures and colophons. Monastic scribes, notaries who freelanced as scribes, professional scribes, writing masters, and even amateur scribes are included here. Every scribe who signs his work adds a personalizing element that makes the manuscript come alive and triggers our imagination, often in unexpected ways.

TM 236

**RICARDUS DE MEDIAVILLA** [RICHARD OF MIDDLETON], *In quartum Sententiarum Petri Lombardi commentarius* [Commentary on Peter Lombard's Fourth Book of the Sentences]

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

Italy, likely Lombardy, c. 1400-50, with additions after c. 1475

Franciscans were enthusiastically bookish, and this manuscript was originally copied in a northern Italian Franciscan milieu and then updated later in the century by another scribe, who signs in notarial fashion, in the scriptorium of the newly founded Franciscan house of Santa Croce in Boscaglia di Como.

25.000 €

TM 260

Nicholas of Lyra, *Postilla in Apocalipsim*

In Latin, illustrated manuscript on parchment

Dalmatia [Montenegro], Cattaro [Kotor], dated 26 September 1438

One of a coherent group of five manuscripts signed by the scribe Johannes de Luxia, a Venetian notary and chancellor of Cattaro in Montenegro, this manuscript contributes to our knowledge of the cultural hegemony of Italy in the Venetian colonies, especially Dalmatia on the Croatian coast.

20.000 €

TM 106

[NOTARIAL DEED] Beatrice, daughter of Guecellone da Camino

In Latin, manuscript on parchment

Italy, Porcia [Friuli], dated 20 November 1397

Folded concertina style, this lengthy testament of the estate of a known woman preserves the system of notary marks signatures overlapping the seams of the pieces of parchment that are designed to guarantee the legal authenticity of the document.

7.500 €

TM 235

RUSIO, LORENZO, *Hippiatria sive Marescalia* [Book on the Health of Horses],  
in the Italian translation of Antonio Dapera

In Italian and Latin, illustrated manuscript on paper

Northern Italy (perhaps Ferrara), 1434

Signed and dated by the scribe Guido de Santo Angelo for the farrier Chalavereso in honor of St. Eloy, patron saint of blacksmiths, and perhaps illustrated by him, this practical manual was most likely made for the routine use of the ducal farrier at the court of Niccolo III d'Este in Ferrara.

40.000 €

TM 246

GUIDO DE MONTE ROQUERIO, *Manipulus curatorum*

In Latin, manuscript on paper and parchment

Italy (probably Verona), c. 1450-75

This important manual for instructing priests is extraordinary for its many indications of early provenance. The scribe, the original owner (a priest), a second priest, and finally the priest who purchased it from him are all named. It ended up in Capodistria, a Venetian colony on the Adriatic coast.

15.000 €

TM 231

MICHAEL PACIS, *Epistola responsiva* [Letter on the Turkish Threat to Christendom]

In Latin, manuscript on paper

Northern Italy (Veneto?), letter dated Padua 1 May 1472

Letters are highly personal, sometimes preserving the hand of the author and remarks by the recipient. This unpublished and unrecorded bellicose letter against the threat posed by the Ottoman Empire to the Italian peninsula was composed by a monk from Trieste and addressed to a jurist-rector at Padua contemporary with the date of the composition.

18.000 €

TM 71

JACOBUS DE VORAGINE, *Sermones dominicales per totum annum* [Sermones de Tempore]

In Latin, manuscript on paper

France, likely Burgundy or the Franche-Comté (?), dated 1407

Working at 9 o'clock in the evening of May 28, 1407, in the house of Humbert Pavon, the scribe Philibert Cortot (or Corton) completed this manuscript, before it entered the oldest religious house in Beaune, the Cordeliers.

19.000 €

TM 107

MOREL, Louis, sieur de LA GARDE, [Specimens of calligraphy]

In French, decorated manuscript on paper

France, Bayeux (Normandy), dated 1597

This set of calligraphy specimens is by an unknown Norman writing master and herald from Bayeux, Louis Morel. Morel's work can now be further studied in relation to that of his better-known contemporaries, such as Jean de Beauchesne, Guillaume Le Gangneur, and Jean de Beaugrand.

18.000 €

TM 201

ANONYMOUS, [Medical Miscellany]

In Yiddish and Hebrew, manuscript on paper

Poland, Wengrow, dated 1596

The core of this manuscript written in Yiddish contains a collection of medical cures arranged in the order of the ailment or the organ affected, probably transcribed by a physician for his own use. It is one of few surviving medieval manuscripts from Poland, the only one from Wengrow.

48.000 €



## collectors

People then and now often buy books that reflect their personal interests. A musician might collect music books, a physician medical books. Someone from a particular region may search for books related to the history of their area. This group of books foregrounds interests of some of the famous collectors of the past. Included are Sir Thomas Phillips, who owned one of the largest collections of manuscripts ever assembled and was known as a "vello-maniac." Others include Sir Moses Montefiore, the most famous English Jew of his time, who put together one of the major collections of Hebrew manuscripts (formerly deposited in Jews' College, London). There are many others-Europeans such as Giannalisa Feltrinelli, the Duke of Arenberg and the Earl of Ashburnham, and Americans such as Coella Lindsay Ricketts and Cornelius Hauck. Happily, manuscripts reveal a kind of lineage as they make their way over the centuries from person to person, sometimes finding their final resting places in museums and libraries.

TM 277

Portable Liturgical Psalter and Noted Breviary (Carthusian use)

In Latin, with some French, decorated manuscript on parchment

France, Loire Valley?, c.1300-1315, after 1291 and before 1318

The telltale stamp on the front flyleaf "Sir TP Middle Hill," along with the paper label and shelfmark on the spine, identifies the manuscript as part of the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (d. 1872), who owned some 60,000 manuscripts.

70.000 €

TM 124

ABRAHAM IBN EZRA, *Sefer ha-Mispar* [Book of Numbers] and *Hokhmat ha-Mispar* [Science of Numbers]

In Hebrew, manuscript on paper

Balkans or Turkey, mid to late fifteenth century

From the collections of the philologist, Samuel David Luzzato (d. 1865), to that of the bibliophile Solomon Hayyim Halberstam (d. 1900), to that of Sir Moses Montefiore (d. 1885), his MS 419, stamped on spine, and front pastedown, the manuscript was deposited in London, Jews' College from 1899 until the public sale of the collection.

40.000 €

Cat. 13, no. 23

Book of Hours (use of Geert Grote)

In Dutch

The Netherlands, Utrecht, circa 1430

4 full-page miniatures and 1 historiated initial by the Workshop or Precursor to the Masters of Zweder van Culemborg

This lovely Dutch Horae comes from the collection of John William Pease (d. 1950), First Baron of Wardington, his bookplate on front pastedown, with motto *Pax et spes*, the same motto on the bookplate pasted on pastedown of bottom cover with the initials "H.B.," (not traceable in his sales).

115.000 €

TM 264

[Collection of Documents pertaining to the Sainte-Chapelle in Dijon].

In French and Latin, on paper and parchment

France, likely Burgundy (Dijon?), from 1473 to the last quarter of the 18th century

Compiled in the eighteenth century, the manuscript has a distinguished provenance, first as part of the collection of the famous "book thief" Jean-Baptiste Joseph Barrois (d. 1855), Deputy of Lille, and subsequently acquired by Bertram, the 4th Lord of Ashburnham (d. 1878).

SOLD

TM 274

[Statuti della Compagnia dei Brentatori di Bologna] [Statutes of the Guild of the Wine-Carriers of Bologna]

In Italian, manuscript on parchment

Italy, Bologna, c. 1450-1500

Eight sales beginning in 1997 dispersed the largely documentary and humanist collection of Giannalisa Feltrinelli of the famous northern Italian publishing family, one of whose rogue members figured prominently in the Red Brigade; in this one her bookplate is affixed to the upper pastedown.

40.000 €

TM 269

Miniature Lutheran Prayer Book

In German, manuscript on parchment

Germany, Nuremberg (?) c. 1550-1600

In 2006, the Cincinnati Museum Center sold more than 700 lots (including this one, its text incorrectly identified in the catalogue), described as "The History of the Book" collection of Cornelius J. Hauck (d. 1967), who was a Cincinnati beer baron.

14.000 €

TM 270

[Order of the Holy Spirit]. *Petit Office du Saint-Esprit*  
In Latin and French, illustrated manuscript on parchment  
France, Paris?, dated 1828

The calligraphy collection of Coella Lindsay Ricketts (d. 1941), an engrosser from Chicago, was divided between the Lilly Library and the Newberry Library. Staying in the family, this charming volume, signed by a calligrapher, "V.B.," had a note tucked inside it "Merry Christmas to Julia [Ricketts]. Father 1928."

3.500 €



## owners

"... a thousand little mysteries," this is how Roger Stoddard described traces left behind in books. These traces show how collectors personalized their manuscripts, and they may include the ex-libris, the armorial shield, the custom-made binding, readers's notes, pointing hands, and signatures. Books of Hours occupy a special category, because they sometimes contain a family "livre de raison," recording birth and death dates and the history of a family through the ages. Their prized status with their owners is often vividly reflected in portraits, mottos, and emblems, offering a tantalizing glimpse at the early moments in the history of the manuscript.

TM 169

GEORG SCHERER, *Mysteria Passionis Domini nostri Iesu Christi*  
In Latin, manuscript on parchment and paper  
Austria, Vienna, dated MDXCI [1591]

Illustrated with a full set of engravings by Albrecht Dürer from his *Engraved Passion* and adorned with an armorial binding, this calligraphic manuscript was presented to the thirteen-year-old Ferdinand, archduke and future emperor (Ferdinand II) probably by his Jesuit tutor Georg Scherer.

95.000 €

TM 280

[ANONYMOUS]. [JESUITS]. *Exercitium passionis domini nostri Iesu Christi pro tempore quadragesimae et maxime hebdomadae sanctae* [Spiritual Exercise on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ during Lent and the Holy Week]

In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper and parchment  
Italy, Tuscany, Lucca (?), c. 1619-1630, most likely around 1622

Perhaps on commission by the Cardinal Francesco Boncompagni, a famous collector and patron of arts (whose binding is preserved), this manuscript belonged to the Emperor Ferdinand II and his second spouse Eleonora Gonzaga of Mantua.

12.000 €

SAINT JEROME, *Epistolae, Adversus Iovinianum*

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment  
Italy, Naples (?), c. 1400-1430.

For an anonymous Angevine nobleman, whose coat of arms figures in the bas-de-page of the opening folio, this deluxe copy of St. Jerome's works is still in its original humanist binding.

75.000 €

TM 238

**BERNARDUS DE ROSENGIO**, *Miranda de laudibus francie et de ipsius regimine regni*

In Latin, on parchment

France, last third of the fifteenth century (1461-1475)

Probably commissioned by Bernardus de Rosergio, archbishop of Toulouse (1400-1475), as a gift for Louis XI of France (1461-1483). The French royal arms appear on f. 1 within the initial "M," which has been subsequently defaced.

50.000 €

TM 266

**PLUTARCH**, *De la fortune des Romains* [On the Fortune of the Romans],

French translation from the Greek by Arnauld Chandon de Pamiers

In French, illuminated manuscript on parchment

France, Paris?, c. 1530-1540

This previously unknown manuscript contains the only extant copy of an unpublished vernacular translation of Plutarch presented to King Francis I by its author and still in its original royal binding with motifs of crowned "F's."

42.000 €

TM 283

**GAIUS SALLUSTIUS CRISPUS**, *De coniuratione Catilinae, Bellum Iugurthinum*

In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper

Northern Italy, Veneto (Venice? Vicenza?), ca. 1440-1450

Sallust's writings, combining history, ethics, and rhetoric, suited the needs of "ars grammatica" in the schools, and this copy is annotated in a contemporary hand with the names of two owners, one of whom copies some proverbs on f. 94 (as school exercises?).

30.000 €

TM 278

**PUBLIUS TERENCE AFER**, [*Comoediae*], *Phormio, Hecyra*

In Latin, manuscript on paper

Southern Germany, Württemberg or Western Bavaria?, c. 1460-1470

In this substantial fragment of Terence's comedies, likely recovered as binding waste, it is the layout that encourages the addition of traces-glosses, suggesting their use in the schools or monasteries for pedagogical purposes.

19.000 €

TM 209

**WALTER VON NITZSCHWITZ**, et al, *Roßarzneibuch* [Miscellany of Hippiatric Treatises],  
"The Langenburg Manuscript"

In German, illustrated manuscript on paper

Southwestern Germany, dated 1583 (sic?), c. 1600-1650

A colophon assigns this "Book of medicine of horses" to the veterinarian of the armies of Old Würtemberg, Walter of Nitzschwitz, in the year 1580, and notes its revision in Stuttgart in the year 1583. It remained in the same princely family until the 21st century.

22.000 €

**TM 101**

[ANONYMOUS]. *Tractatus de Vitijs et Virtutibus*

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment

Italy, c. 1400?

In this unpublished treatise on the Virtues and Vices, a clever eighteenth-century forger beefed up the manuscript's medieval provenance, with an added coat-of-arms and colophon, claiming for it a false authorship to a well-known Cardinal and dedication to the famous Malatesta family.

18.000 €

**Cat. 13, no. 3**

**Book of Hours (Use of Rouen)**

In Latin

France, Normandy, likely Dieppe, c. 1500

14 large and 2 small miniatures

Made for, and perhaps by, nuns, after designs in manuscripts of Rouen, this Horae is personalized by portraying twice the original owner, a hospitaler from a foundation in Dieppe.

48.000 €

**Cat 13, no. 21**

**Rokeghem Hours (Use of Rome)**

In Latin and Dutch

Belgium, Bruges, circa 1500

2 large and 16 small miniatures by Cornelia van Wulfschkercke

The coat-of-arms on f. 32 indicates that the manuscript was made to order for a member of the noble Flemish family, van Rokeghem, who had lands near Bruges, probably Adrien van Rokeghem, husband of Jeanne van der Bare.

65.000 €

**Cat 13, no. 15**

**Book of Hours (Use of Rome)**

In Latin

France, Paris (?), circa 1470

9 miniatures by the workshops of the Maître François and of Jacques de Besançon

Twice unfinished, this interesting Horae was begun for someone with a special devotion to John and continued in a second campaign for a woman who appears in prayer next to St. Fiacre, patron saint of gardeners and invoked by the infirm.

50.000 €

