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PRESS RELEASE



STUCK AT HOME? SO ARE WE Les Enluminures online initiatives

Founded by Dr. Sandra Hindman more than twenty-five years ago and with galleries in Paris, Chicago, and New York, Les Enluminures has forged long-standing relationships with major museums and prestigious private collections throughout the world. The gallery exhibits at major art, antiques, and book fairs. Sandra Hindman is responsible for numerous publications on medieval manuscript illumination and historic jewelry; her scholarship over many decades has established a model for study in this field, and descriptions of works available in the gallery meet the same level of professionalism. Her large team located in major cities in the United States and abroad is composed of noted specialists in the field of medieval art and history.

Les Enluminures has long been in the vanguard of the use of digital resources to disseminate information not only on works it offers for sale but also on medieval art and history for a broad audience.

Now, during this exceptional time period, Les Enluminures has ramped up its virtual presence. Those on the extensive mailing list – or through Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook – can access its innovative (and amusing and distracting) **“April Showers 30 Days of Digital Delights.”** The May sequence (“Flowers”) is soon to follow.

Here, we call attention to longer-standing online initiatives that are ongoing today.

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1. The Les Enluminures Podcast

Begun in 2019, here you can listen to **untold stories of medieval and Renaissance artworks**, medieval manuscripts and jewelry. Join us for illuminating lectures, gallery talks, recent research, and interviews with collectors and scholars. Les Enluminures podcasts transform the past into the present.

Highlights include:

A mini-series with Benjamin Zucker, collector, diamond dealer, and author, on historic diamonds to accompany an exhibition with catalogue in the Les Enluminures gallery in New York. There is an interview with internationally known scholar and professor Herbert Kessler on the newest edition of his cutting-edge survey "Experiencing Medieval Art." Listen also to William "Bill" Voelkle recount his experiences as a curator for fifty years at the Morgan Library and Museum. Sadly, the remarkable exhibition on Jan van Eyck, following the restoration of the Ghent Altarpiece, closed early. But, hear Dominique van Wijnsberghe and Lieve de Kesel – authors of essays in the catalogue and consultants for the exhibition – discuss Jan van Eyck as a manuscript illuminator. Just posted and cross listed with ABEbooks, there is a profile interview of Sandra Hindman by Richard Davies of ABEbooks: who she is and why she does what she does ... **Stay tuned.**

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2. Text Manuscripts

This is **the oldest digital initiative of Les Enluminures**, launched not quite twenty years ago. The online site dedicated to the description and sale of text manuscripts www.textmanuscripts.com first appeared in September 2002. It offers the largest and most wide-ranging inventory of text manuscripts currently on the market. Beginning with Text Manuscript 1 (TM1), manuscripts on the site number well over 1,000. The majority belong to college and university libraries worldwide, and many have been the subject of scholarly study – articles, books, colloquia, and so forth. Fulfilling a service to the larger manuscript community, Les Enluminures maintains an Archive in which all sold manuscripts remain online for citation and study. New items are posted bi-annually, in the Fall and in the Spring.

Posted in April 2020, our Spring Update is particularly exciting. It adds twenty-four manuscripts to the site and suggests how they can inspire topics for new research. These topics include owner-produced books (or we like to call them "selfie books"); a hybrid incunable that offers a glimpse into the workshop of an early printer; textbooks that reveal how teachers and students used manuscripts in the classroom (in the days long before ZOOM); women and the book with at least five examples from convents in Italy, France, and the Low Countries; and unusual formats and technologies, a pedigree scroll, a hybrid book (manuscript and printed), and two stenciled music manuscripts, one of which is also a hybrid (manuscript and stenciled). We have refreshed the appearance of the site with a new pictorial heading and moved to a new server for better service.

"Manuscript Mornings," an occasional meeting of curators, scholars, and collectors that has taken place in the last five years in the New York gallery, goes online in April. **"Virtual Manuscript Mornings"** with coffee over ZOOM will bring us together as we look digitally at a few text manuscripts of interest and discuss research activities in the field of rare books and manuscripts. Attendance is limited and participation reserved in advance.

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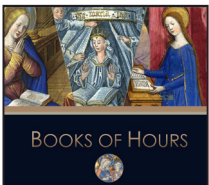
3. Medieval Text Manuscripts Blog

Begun in 2015, this occasional blog highlights what makes our **text manuscripts particularly interesting and appealing** to us. Here we explore what these books disclose about how they were made and used. We also share what we know of their most fascinating and unusual contents, makers, and owners. Some of our discoveries are quite significant, some merely amusing, and some bizarre. Some blogs spill over into other areas of our inventory, like Books of Hours and miniatures. All medieval manuscripts have much to reveal to their attentive modern audiences.

There is a **list of subjects, which are extremely varied** – codicology and cookery, kings and knights, margins and medievalism, patronage and preaching, women and the book, and a great many others. There is an Archive divided by year back to 2015.

The titles of many of the blogs are as intriguing as the contents and invite further reading. Some examples include Damien Hirst and Renaissance Manuscripts, Jumping Jehoshaphat, When a Fly in the Ointment is a Good Thing, Reading the Hours, Modern Love, Meet me at the Fair, From Seville to Sydney. Most blogs are written by our in-house team of specialists. However, **guest bloggers** have been welcome and include Richard and Mary Rouse, Christopher de Hamel, Jane Hardie, among others. The most recent post “Loose Tongues: Crafting a Reliquary” examines a tongue reliquary (yes, tongue) and suggests how the techniques of decoupage and collage used in making it might serve well during our home confinement.

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4. Books of Hours Online Update

Beginning in April, 2020, this new initiative – bi-annual Books of Hours updates – is inspired by the nearly two decade success of www.textmanuscripts.com. Clients, including museums and libraries, will receive full descriptions and animated updates of Books of Hours newly available for purchase twice a year.

Les Enluminures offers one of the **largest and most wide-ranging inventories of Books of Hours** by different artists and in diverse price ranges in the world. Our highly qualified staff, from some of the greatest universities located in America, Europe, and Britain, describes each Book of Hours with guaranteed accuracy. Our team takes great pleasure in introducing Books of Hours to anyone who delights in experiencing and knowing about the European Middle Ages, at any level. We welcome inquiries from serious collectors, libraries, and museums.

Sparkling with gold leaf and illustrated with many pictures, Books of Hours (the medieval “bestseller”) survive in large numbers as captivating artistic and textual expressions of daily medieval life. More than almost any other type of medieval illuminated manuscript, they are still accessible purchases and can be enjoyed, not only in museums, but at home. We can gaze at them in contented solitude after dinner, or discuss them with friends who visit, or, as Christopher de Hamel colorfully imagines, even read them in bed. We are also offering **free Skype tutorials for prospective clients** interested in acquiring a Book of Hours.

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