

## **The Splendor of Words: An Introduction to Manuscript Illumination**

### **Recommendations for Further Reading**

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#### **General Overviews and Introductions**

Alexander, Jonathan J. G. *Medieval Illuminators and their Methods of Work*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

De Hamel, Christopher. *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts. Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World*. New York: Penguin, 2017.

De Hamel, Christopher. *A History of Illuminated Manuscripts*. Oxford: Phaidon, 1986.

Dodwell, Charles Reginald. *Painting in Europe, 800 to 1200*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1971.

Kendrick, Laura. *Animating the Letter: the Figurative Embodiment of Writing from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1999.

Parkes, Malcom Beckwith. *Scribes, Scripts and Readers: Studies in the Communication, Presentation and Dissemination of Medieval Texts*. London: Hambledon, 1991.

#### **Studies and Essays on Technique and Technical Matters**

Ackley, Joseph Salvatore, and Shannon L Wearing, eds. *Illuminating Metalwork: Metal, Object, and Image in Medieval Manuscripts*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

Collins, Kristen, and Nancy K. Turner, eds. *Lumen: The Art and Science of Light, 800–1600*. Los Angeles: Getty Publications, 2024.

Gearhart, Heidi C. *Theophilus and the Theory and Practice of Medieval Art*. University Park, PA: Penn State Press, 2017.

Panayotova, Stella, ed. *Colour: the Art and Science of Illuminated Manuscripts*. Exh. cat. Cambridge: Fitzwilliam Museum, 2016.

#### **The Early Middle Ages**

Williams, John, ed. *Imaging the Early Medieval Bible*. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1998.

Karkov, Catherine. *Anglo-Saxon Manuscript Illumination*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

### **The Carolingian Period**

Lifshitz, Felice. *Religious Women in Early Carolingian Francia. A Study of Manuscript Transmission and Monastic Culture*. New York, 2014.

### **Romanesque Manuscripts**

Cahn, Walter. *Romanesque Bible Illumination*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1982.

Kwakkel, Erik and Rodney Thomson. *The European Book in the Twelfth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

### **Gothic Manuscripts**

Camille, Michael. *Image on the Edge: The Margins of Medieval Art*. London: Reaktion Books, 1992.

Hindman, Sandra and James Marrow, eds. *Books of Hours Reconsidered. Studies in Medieval and Early Renaissance Art History*. London: Harvey Miller, 2013.

Rudy, Kathryn. *Piety in Pieces. How Medieval Readers Customized their Manuscripts*. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2016.

## **THE SPLENDOR OF WORDS: AN INTRODUCTION TO MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATION**

### **1. Late Antiquity (c. 300–500 CE): From Roll to Codex**

“*Roman Virgil*” (*Virgilius Romanus*), c. 400. Vatican Library, lat. 3867, fol. 3v. Author Portrait

Facsimile, “*Vatican Virgil*”, original made c. 400 (Vatican Library Vat. lat. 3225)

#### **Papyrus Rolls:**

Seated Scribe, Found near the tomb of Kai, Saqqara. Old Kingdom (Fifth Dynasty) c. 2450–2325 BCE.

Painted limestone with inlaid eyes of rock crystal, calcite, and magnesite mounted in copper, height 21" (53 cm). Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Papyrus roll with names of farmers, Egypt, c. 198 CE. Berlin, Neues Museum

Egyptian Papyrus Plant and example of technique (modern)

Papyrus with fragments of the Iliad (Book 18 lines 393–617, with lacunae). Karanis, Egypt, 2nd/3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE.  
Papyrus, 30 x 100 cm. University of Michigan P. Mich. Inv. 3160

Papyrus roll, partly unrolled, University of Michigan, Hatcher Graduate Library

Illustrated Greek Romance, Papyrus, Rome, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. CE, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale cod. suppl. gr. 1294

#### **Parchment and Codices:**

Making a Codex:

Scraping and stretching of Parchment... (or in the late Middle Ages, just buy it)

Folding the sheets

Basic pattern of Pricking and Ruling (University of Toronto)

Pricking and Ruling, from a manuscript of Robert of Gretham, ‘*Mirur*’, WLC/LM/3, f. 72r.  
(University of Nottingham)

Scribe copying a manuscript, *Estoire de Saint Graal*, France, 1315-1325, British Library Royal MS 14 E III

Quires (gatherings of 4 bifolia, or what we would call double pages)

Gatherings of parchment into a quire, 13<sup>th</sup> c. Missal, London, Victoria & Albert Museum

Gatherings sewn into a binding

#### **Unfinished manuscripts:**

Peter Lombard, *Sentences*, St. Amand, 1160s. Valenciennes Bibliothèque Municipale MS 186, fols. 1v, 2r

*Vita S. Amandi*, St. Amand, France, 1160s. Valenciennes, Bibliothèque Municipale MS 500

Unfinished drawings, fol. 53v-54r

Unfinished initials, fol. 16r (above) and 41v (below), and 26 v (right)

**Early Codices:**

*"Roman Virgil"* (*Virgilius Romanus*), c. 400. Vatican Library, lat. 3867

Opening to Eclogues: Pastoral scene, fol. 1r

cf. (*confer*) Illustrated Greek Romance, Papyrus, Rome, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. CE

Author Portrait, fol. 3v

*"Vatican Virgil"*, c. 400. Vatican Library, lat. 3225

Pictorial Index, fol. 1r

**2. The Early Middle Ages: Migrations and Monasteries, c. 600–800 CE: Roman Heritage and Local Culture**

Map, Early Medieval Migrations, c. 395–550 CE

Map, Europe and the Mediterranean, c. 500 CE

**The British Isles:**

Gospels of St. Augustine, late 6<sup>th</sup> c., Cambridge, Corpus Christi College MS 286

Gospel of Luke, fol. 129

cf. *"Roman Virgil"*, c. 400, Rome, Author Portrait, fol. 3v

cf. Christ in Majesty with the four beasts and Ezekiel (below), Bury Bible, Bury St. Edmunds, England, c. 1121-1148. Cambridge, Corpus Christi College Parker Library, CCCC M 2, fol. 281v.

cf. Aachen Gospels, Aachen (?), c. 820. Aachen, Treasury, fol. 13r.

cf. Pictorial Index, *"Vatican Virgil"*, c. 400. Vatican Library, lat. 3225, fol. 1r .

Map, early monasteries in the British Isles

Codex Amiatinus, Wearmouth-Jarrow (England), c. 700

Prophet Ezra

Map, Lindisfarne Abbey

Lindisfarne Gospels, Lindisfarne, early 8<sup>th</sup> c. London, British Library, Cotton Ms. Nero D. IV

Incipit, Book of Matthew, fol. 27r

cf. The "Franks" Casket, Anglo-Saxon (found in France), early 8<sup>th</sup> c. London, British Museum

cf. Sutton Hoo Shoulder Clasp, c. 625, gold, garnet inlay; London, British Museum

cf. Sutton Hoo Buckle, c. 625, gold and niello inlay, 13 cm, 412 g; London, British Museum

Portrait of Matthew, fol. 25v

cf. Ezra, Codex Amiatinus, Wearmouth-Jarrow, 8<sup>th</sup> c., Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana

Book of Kells, Ireland, late 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> c.; Dublin, Trinity College

Matthew portrait, fol. 28v

Incipit page for the book of Matthew, fol. 29r

Carpet page, fol. 33r

Detail, incipit page for book of Matthew

**France (The Merovingians):**

Map, Early Medieval Migrations, c. 395–550 CE

Map, Europe at the time of the Merovingians, c. 639

*Gellone Sacramentary*, France (Meaux?), c. 790s. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, MS Lat. 12048

Initials, fols. 41v-42r

Te Igitur, fol. 143v

**3. The Carolingians (c. 750–c. 888 CE): Classicism and Innovation**

Map, the Carolingian Empire, at Charlemagne's accession to the throne (orange) and death (purple)

Coronation Gospels, Aachen, Germany, c. 800-810. Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum, WS XIII 18

Mark, fol. 76v

cf. Author Portrait, "Roman Virgil", c. 400, fol. 3v

Ebbo Gospels, c. 816-835. Ink, gold, and colors on vellum, each page 10-1/4" × 8-3/4" (26 × 22.2 cm).

Médiathèque d'Épernay, France. MS. 1

Portrait of Matthew and Incipit Page, fols. 18v-19r

Portrait of Matthew, fol. 18v

cf. Matthew, Lindisfarne Gospels, Lindisfarne, Northumbria, early 8<sup>th</sup> c., fol. 25v

Detail

Detail, Utrecht Psalter, Reims, France, c. 820-835

Drogo Sacramentary, Carolingian, Metz, 844-855. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France MS lat. 9428

Initial "D", fol. 34v

Detail

cf. Incipit, Book of Matthew, Lindisfarne Gospels, early 8<sup>th</sup> c., fol. 27r

cf. *Gellone Sacramentary*, France (Meaux?), c. 790s. fols. 41v, 42r, 143v

**4. The Romanesque Period (c. 1050–1200): New Books, More Books, Bigger Books**

Map, The Carolingian empire and its disintegration, 768–843

Map of Europe c. 1100

*Life and Miracles of St. Edmund*, Bury St. Edmunds, England, c. 1130. New York, Morgan Library MS M 736

Edmund giving Alms, fol. 9r

Miracle of Thieves, fol. 18v

Gregory the Great, *Moralia in Job*, Abbey of Cîteaux (Cistercian), c. 1111, Dijon, Bibliothèque Municipale MS 168

Initial R, prefatory letter to Leander, fol. 4v.

cf. *Gellone Sacramentary*, France (Meaux?), c. 790s, fol. 41v

cf. Initial "D" with Magi, *Drogo Sacramentary*, Metz, 844-855, fol. 34v

Initial Q, fol. 59r

Winchester Bible, Winchester Cathedral, 1150–1175. Parchment, 583 mm x 396 mm

Bury Bible, Master Hugo, c.1135, Abbey at Bury St. Edmunds, England. 522 x 360 mm (20 ½ x 14 in.)

Initial F (Jerome's Prologue), fol. 1v

Details

## **5. The Gothic Period (c. 1200–1450): Literacy, Learning, and Books for Laypeople**

Two Lions, *Bestiary of Hugh of Fouillois*, France or Flanders, ca.1270. Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum  
MS Ludwig XV 3 fol. 68r

Vincent of Beauvais, *Speculum Naturale*, 13<sup>th</sup> century. Minneapolis, Medtronic, Inc.

Matthew Paris, abbreviated *Historia Anglorum*. St. Albans, c. 1250. London, British Library Cotton MS  
Claudius D VI

King Brutus of Troy and his sons fol. 6r

Four Kings of England, fol. 9v

Map of Britain, fol. 12v

Villard de Honnecourt, Sketchbook, France, c. 1230. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France MS Fr. 19093  
Rose Window from Chartres, fol.15v

cf. Chartres Cathedral, West Front and Rose Window, c. 1150

Tracery at Reims, fol. 30v

cf. Nave, Reims Cathedral, early 13<sup>th</sup> c.

Heads and animals, fol. 18v.

Rutland Psalter, England, c. 1260. London, British Library Add MS 62925

Jacob's Ladder, before Psalm 80, with cannibal hybrids, fol. 83v

Detail

cf. Detail, Incipit page of Matthew, Book of Kells, late 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> c., fol. 29r.

cf. Detail, *Gellone Sacramentary*, France (Meaux?), c 790s, fol. 41v

cf. Detail, Bury Bible, Master Hugo, c.1135, Abbey at Bury St. Edmunds, fol. 1v

*Serajevo Haggadah*, Spain (Barcelona?) c. 1350. Sarajevo, National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Text page, fol. 3v

Crossing of the Red Sea (above) and Miriam dancing (below)

Families leaving Synagogue

*Book of Hours of Jeanne d'Evreux*, Jean Pucelle, 3 1/2 x 2 7/8 in., 1324-1328, Metropolitan Museum of  
Art, The Cloisters, New York

Flagellation and Nativity, fols. 53v, 54r

*Très Riches Heures of Duc de Berry*, Limbourg Brothers, 1400-1416, Musée Condé, Chantilly

March, fol. 3v

January, fol. 2r