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e-Catalogue Eight Exploring Text Manuscripts

IMAGINING THE PAST: HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

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e-Catalogue Eight

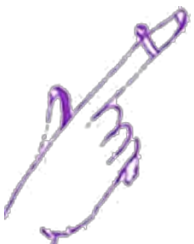
Exploring Text Manuscripts

This new series of e-Catalogues focuses on select themes of text manuscripts available in our inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com. We begin with “Women and the Book” a topic of considerable interest and well represented among our holdings. These catalogues follow two earlier series of text manuscript catalogues, including the Primers. These remain available in digital form on our website and in print by order.

Look for our e-Catalogues the first Tuesday of every month. Forthcoming titles include "Medieval Bestsellers," and "Manuscripts for the Classroom."

Imagining the Past: Historical Manuscripts

Historical writing in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance encompassed numerous genres; the eight manuscripts included here reflect this diversity. The Bible was the basis for the schematic presentation of biblical history by Peter of Poitiers (about 1130-1205). Guido da Pisa's very different and ambitious Renaissance universal chronicle, famous for its retelling of the story of Aeneas, also drew on the Bible, beginning with the life of Moses. The Roman historian Sallust was an essential text for classroom study, and Plutarch was studied for his moral examples by Renaissance humanists. Chronicles of the Kings of France (written by monks of St. Denis), here in a French translation, were especially popular with the nobility, providing entertainment as well as indoctrination. The lives of the saints, a supremely medieval form of historical writing, were at once biographies, local histories, and inspirational literature. Carl Sagan has said, “You have to know the past to understand the present.” **These manuscripts reveal that knowing how the past understood its own past, will allow us in turn to understand the past.**



Sandra Hindman and Laura Light

1.

ZACHARIAS CHRYSOPOLITANUS, *Super unum ex quattuor* (Commentary on One from Four); PETER OF POITIERS, *Compendium historiae in genealogia christi* (A Compendium of History in the Genealogy)

In Latin, illustrated manuscript on paper and parchment
Southern Netherlands (Sluis, near Bruges), dated 1475

MEDIEVAL HISTORY = BIBLICAL HISTORY

DESCRIPTION: 244 folios on parchment and paper, complete, canon tables, five drawings, two diagrams, first leaf creased, nineteenth-century half leather binding. Dimensions 295 x 210 mm.

For the people in the Middle Ages, the Bible was the fundamental history book, inspiring the three texts included here: a Gospel harmony, an Old Testament history, and a Latin translation of Josephus's retelling of biblical history, written in Greek c. 93-94 A.D. This finely illustrated manuscript, copied by a previously unknown scribe who identifies himself several times, is the only known surviving volume from the library of the Observant Franciscans at Sluis. [TM 1012]

\$110,000



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[Full description and images available online](#)

2.

GUIDO DA PISA, *La Fiorita d'Italia* (The Flower of Italy)

In Italian, decorated manuscript on parchment
Italy, Tuscany (Florence?), c. 1440-1460

UNIVERSAL CHRONICLE FROM THE RENAISSANCE

DESCRIPTION: : 83 folios on parchment, lacking nine leaves, penwork initials, original blind-tooled leather binding, some damage to leather at foot of boards and spine. Dimensions 260 x 182 mm.

Guido da Pisa's universal chronicle – from the life of Moses through the story of Aeneas and the beginning of the history of Rome – written in Italian is remarkably rare. This is the first copy to appear on the open market in over 140 years, and, as one of only a few copies of the text on parchment, it was presumably commissioned by an eminent patron. Best known for his commentary on Dante's *Inferno*, Guido cites Dante frequently, along with Livy, Ovid, Isidore, and especially Virgil. There is no critical edition and few manuscripts located outside Italy. [TM 1053]

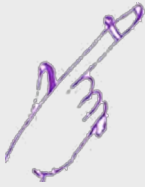
\$52,000



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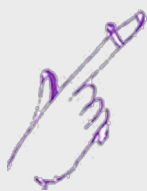
[Full description and images available online](#)

MEDIEVAL HISTORY = BIBLICAL HISTORY

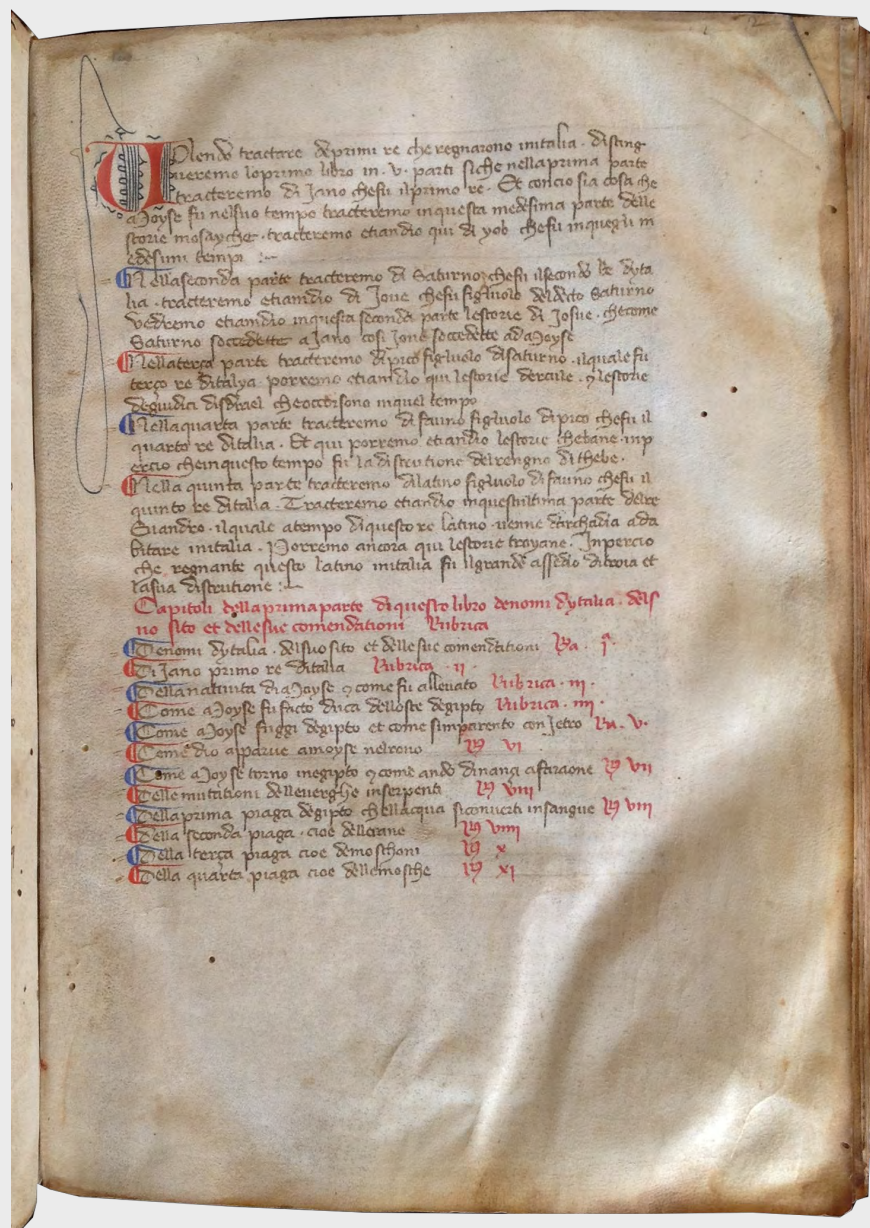


[1. ~ TM 1012]

Full description and images available online



UNIVERSAL CHRONICLE FROM THE RENAISSANCE



Donde tractare d'primi re che regnarono in Italia. Distingueremo lo primo libro in .v. parti sicche nella prima parte tracteremo di Iano Ghesu il primo re. Et ancora sia cosa che a Ioyse fu nel suo tempo tracteremo in questa medesima parte delle storie moysayse. tracteremo etiam di qui di yob Ghesu in questi medesimi tempi.

In la seconda parte tracteremo di Sabirno Ghesu il secondo re di Italia. tracteremo etiam di Ioue Ghesu figlio di Sabirno. Vedremo etiam di questa seconda parte le storie di Iosue. Et come Sabirno succedette a Iano così Ioue succedette ad a Ioyse.

In la terza parte tracteremo di Ioue figlio di Sabirno. il quale fu terzo re di Italia. porremo etiam di qui le storie de rege. Et le storie di Iuditha di Iuditha. Et occorrono in quel tempo.

In la quarta parte tracteremo di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il quarto re di Italia. Et qui porremo etiam le storie de rege. Et in questo tempo fu la distruzione del regno di Hebe.

In la quinta parte tracteremo di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il quinto re di Italia. Tratteremo etiam di questa ultima parte delle storie. il quale tempo di questo re Latino viene descritto ad a di Ioue in Italia. Porremo ancora qui le storie de rege. Impercio che regnante questo Latino in Italia fu il grande assedio di Ioue et la sua distruzione.

Capitoli della prima parte di questo libro denomi d'Italia. di no sto et delle sue comendationi. Vrbica.

- Denomi d'Italia. di suo sto et delle sue comendationi. Va. f.
- Di Iano primo re d'Italia. Vrbica. ij.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il secondo re d'Italia. Vrbica. iij.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il terzo re d'Italia. Vrbica. iij.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il quarto re d'Italia. Vrbica. v.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il quinto re d'Italia. Vrbica. vi.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il sesto re d'Italia. Vrbica. vii.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il settimo re d'Italia. Vrbica. viii.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il ottavo re d'Italia. Vrbica. ix.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il nono re d'Italia. Vrbica. x.
- Di Ioue figlio di Ioue Ghesu il decimo re d'Italia. Vrbica. xi.

[2. ~ TM 1053]

[Full description and images available online](#)

3.

SALLUST, *De Catilinae coniuratione* (On the Conspiracy of Catiline); and *De bello Iugurthino* (On the Jugurthine War); anonymous short summaries of *De Catilinae coniuratione* and *De bello Iugurthino*

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment
Northern Italy, c. 1440-1460

HISTORY FROM ANCIENT ROME

DESCRIPTION: 75 folios on parchment, lacking three leaves, titles and colored initials, a few small tears, abrasion, and stains, folded parchment binding (16th-18th century), secure but with some damage. Dimensions 158 x 108 mm.

These two historical works by Sallust (the earliest Roman historian whose works survive), were the most widely read texts by any classical historian. Basic texts for the classroom in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the format, decoration, and added notes, including two anonymous summaries of these texts, are evidence that this manuscript was used by students. This is an appealing witness to the popularity of Sallust's rhetorical and moralizing interpretations of Roman history in Italian humanist thought and education [TM 969]

\$52,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

4.

PLUTARCH, *Life of Pompey*, Latin translation by JACOPO ANGELI DA SCARPERIA [or ANTONIO PACINI DA TODI?]

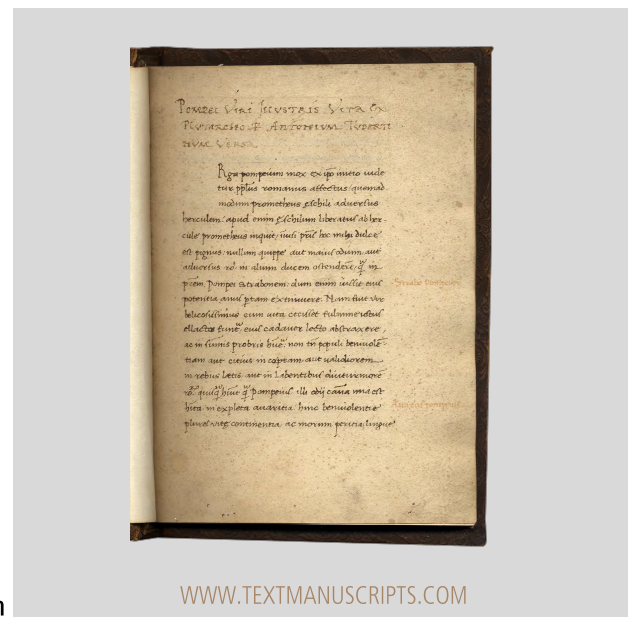
In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper
Northern Italy, Lombardy (Ferrara or Mantua?), c. 1470-1480

BIOGRAPHIES FROM THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

DESCRIPTION: : 71 folios on paper, complete, blank space left for initial, minor stains, nineteenth-century leather armorial binding. Dimensions 215 x 155 mm.

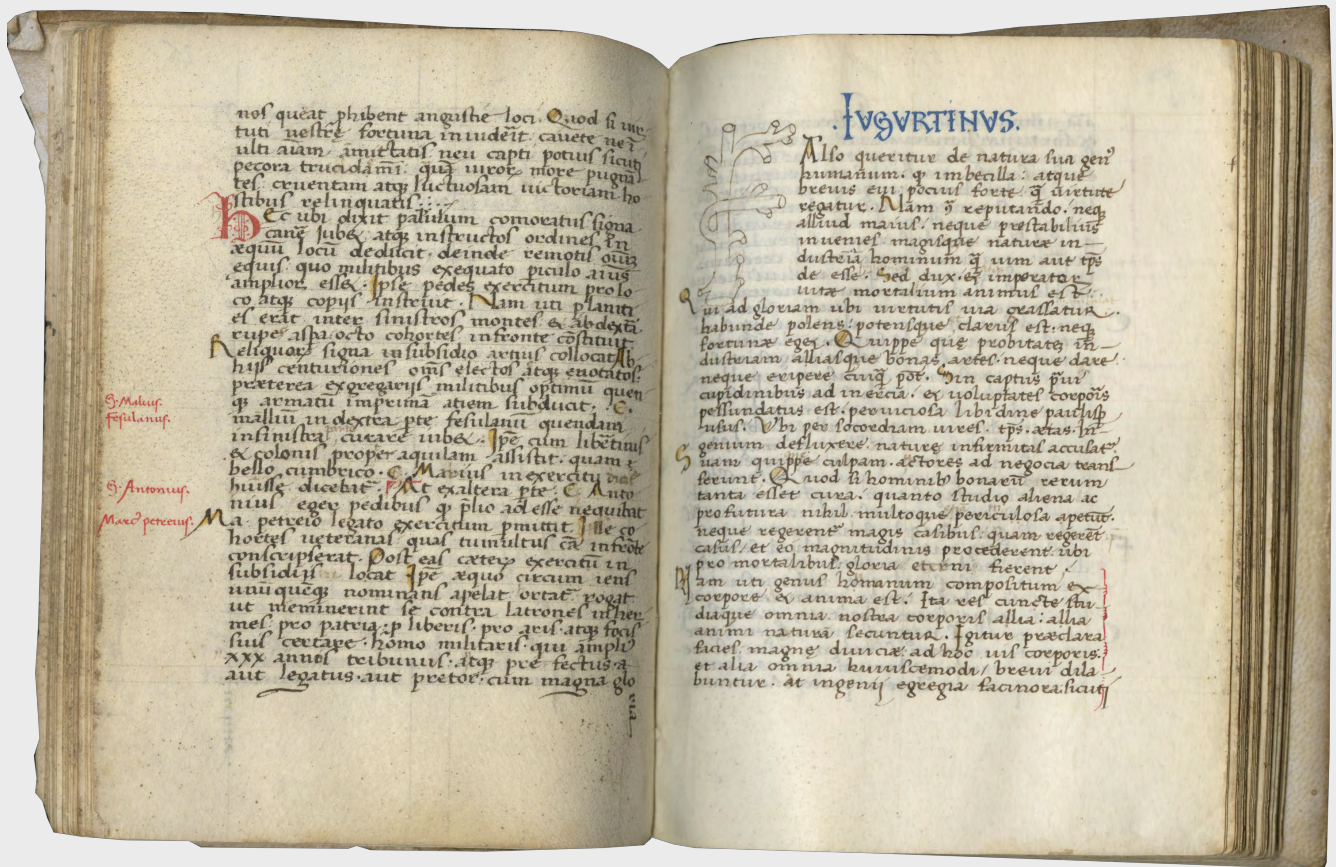
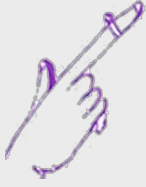
Containing Plutarch's *Life of Pompey*, the Roman republican hero often hailed as an antagonist of tyranny, the numerous marginal notes are an important feature of this manuscript. This is one of about fifty-one recorded Renaissance manuscripts of a Latin translation from the Greek original, which scholars attribute to Jacopo Angeli. Its attribution here to Antonio Pacini raises interesting questions for further exploration. [TM 214]

\$26,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

HISTORY FROM ANCIENT ROME



nos queat phibent anguste loci. Quod si in-
tuitu neltre fortuna inuideit. caute ne
ulti aiam amittat. neu capti potius sicut
pecora trucidam. qui uicos more pugnati-
tes. cruentam atq; fluctuosam uictoriam ho-
stibus relinquat.

DEc ubi dixit palidum comoratus signa
canit sube. atq; instructos ordines in
equis. loci delectat. deinde remoti omni
amplius esse. spe pedes exercitum prolo-
co atq; copul. instat. Nam in planiti-
el erat. inter sinistros montes. et ad dextra
eupes. alii octo cohortes. in fronte constituit.
Reliquas signa in subsidio armis collocat. h
his centuriones. omnes electos. atq; euocatos.
preterea exegerunt. militibus optimis. quon-
q; armati impetum atem subduat. C.
mullu in dextra pte. fesulanu quendam
in sinistra. curare iubet. spe. cum libertanis
et colonis. propter aquilam. assistat. quam
bello. cimbriico. C. Marius. in exercitu. dicit
huic. dicitur. Et ex altera pte. C. Anto-
nius. egey pedibus. q; plio. ad esse. nequitat
na. petreio legato. exercitum. pmittit. Ille co-
hoetis. ueteranas. qual. tumultus. ca. in fronte
conscipierat. Post. eas. ceteris. exercitum. in
subsidio. locat. spe. equo. circum. ient
uau. queq; nominat. apelat. ortat. rogat.
ut. meminerint. se. contra. latrones. in. her-
mes. pro. patria. p. liberis. pro. re. atq; facti
suis. certare. homo. militaris. qui. ampli-
xxx. annos. tribunus. atq; pte. factus. q.
aut. legatus. aut. pretor. cum. magna. glo-

S. Marius.
fesulanus.

S. Antonius.

Marius petreus.

IUGURTHVS.

Illo queritur de natura sua gen-
tium. q; imbecilla. atque
breuis. eui. potius. forte. q; diuinitate
regitur. Nam. q; reputatio. neq;
aliud. malus. neque. prestabilis
inueniet. magnis. nature. in-
dustria. hominum. q; uim. aut. ipsi
de. esse. sed. dux. et. imperator.
uita. mortalium. animal. est.

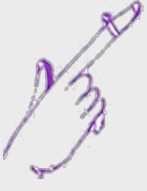
Qui. ad. gloriam. ubi. inuenit. uia. exaltata.
habunde. polens. potens. que. claris. est. neq;
fortuna. egey. Quippe. que. probitate. in-
dustria. alia. que. bonas. artes. neque. dare.
neque. exipere. cui. pot. in. captis. sui.
cupidinis. ad. in. eia. et. uoluptate. corpore.
pellendatus. est. per. uicula. lib. dicit. p. dicit.
tulis. Vbi. per. locordia. uel. ipsi. atq; in.

Quoniam. defluxere. nature. infermitat. acule.
nam. quippe. culpam. atq; otes. ad. negocia. teant.
ferunt. Quod. si. homini. bonae. rerum.
tanta. esset. cura. quanto. studio. aliena. ac
pro. futura. nihil. multoque. periculosa. apert.
neque. regevent. magis. calibus. quam. regevent.
calis. et. eo. magnitudinis. procedent. ubi.
pro. mortalibus. gloria. et. in. fierent.

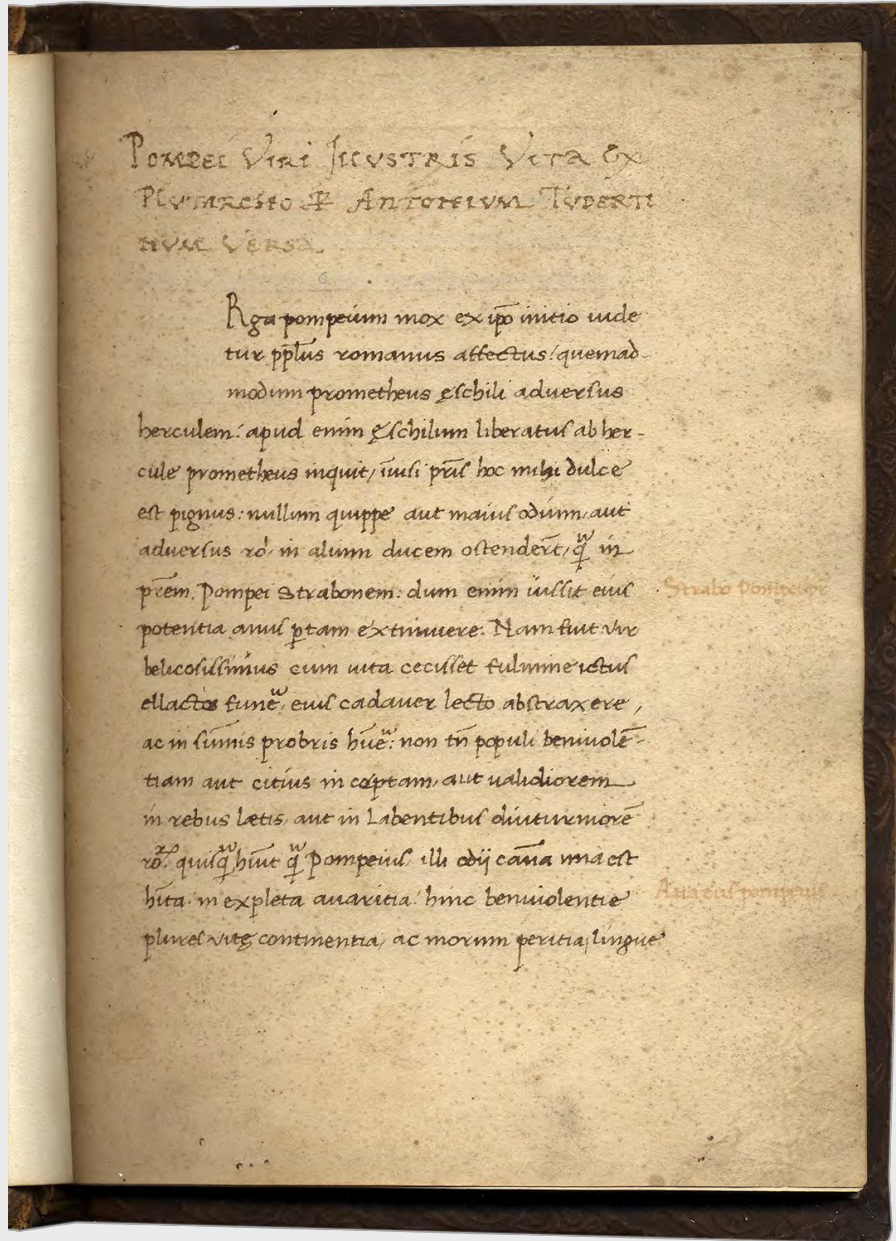
Qui. uti. genus. hominum. compositum. ex
corpore. et. anima. est. Ita. uel. amete. stu-
dia. que. omnia. nostra. corporis. alia. alia.
animi. natura. secuntaria. Igitur. preclara.
hael. magis. diuicia. ad. hoc. uis. corpore.
et. alia. omnia. humani. modi. breui. dila-
buntur. at. ingeny. egegra. fauora. hant.

[3. ~ TM 969]

Full description and images available online



BIOGRAPHIES FROM THE ROMAN REPUBLIC



POMPEI VIRI SVBSTITVS VITA EX
PLVTARCHO P ANTONIVM TIVERTI
SIVE VERSA.

6
Roga pompeium mox ex ipso initio uide-
tur p[ro]p[ri]us romanus affectus quemad-
modum prometheus eschili aduersus
herculem: apud enim eschilum liberatus ab her-
cule prometheus inquit iuli p[ro]p[ri]i hoc mihi dulce
est pignus: nullum quippe aut maui odium aut
aduersus rō in alium ducem ostendit q[ui] in
p[re]m pompei strabonem: dum enim iulii eius
potentia auul p[ro]p[ri]am extrinuerit. Nam fuit vir
belicofissimus cum uita cecisset fulmine ictus
ellectus fune eius cadaver lecto abstraxere
ac in limis probris hūc: non tñ populi beniuolē-
tiam aut citius in captam aut ualidiorē
in rebus letis aut in labentibus diuitemore
rō: quid q[ui] hūc q[ui] pompeius illi odij causa ma est
hita in expleta auaritia hinc beniuolentia
plurē utq[ue] continentia ac morum pericia lingue

Strabo Pompeius

Anaximander Pompeius

[4. ~ TM 214]

[Full description and images available online](#)

5.

GUILLAUME DE NANGIS, *Chronique amplifiée des rois de France* (Expanded Chronicle of the Kings of France)

In French, manuscript on paper
France, c. 1450-1500

MONASTIC HISTORIANS SERVING THE KINGS OF FRANCE

DESCRIPTION: 403 folios on paper, incomplete at end, red initials, minor worming, stains, bleed-through, a few loose leaves, final quire detached, original blind-stamped binding. Dimensions 280 x 205 mm

The chronicle was a uniquely medieval form of historical writing, and this is a splendid example. Guillaume de Nangis, Benedictine monk and librarian at the royal Abbey of St.-Denis, was the official historian of the kings of France responsible for the “continuations” of the *Grandes Chroniques de France*. This volume is an unrecorded witness to his translation into French of one of the most important medieval French chronicles, and it is also of extraordinary rarity. The last available copy was on the market in 1909, and it is represented in the U.S. by a single example. There is no modern edition of the text. [TM 1014]

\$110,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

6.

JEROME, *Vita Pauli primi eremitaie; Vita Malchi monachi cap-tivi; Vita Hilarioni* (Lives of Paul the first hermit, Malchus, and Hilarion)

In Latin, manuscript on parchment
Northern Italy, c. 1400-1430

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY FROM LATE ANTIQUITY

DESCRIPTION: 64 folios on parchment, lacking two quires, pen-work initials, modern brown pigskin binding. Dimensions 185 x 130 mm.

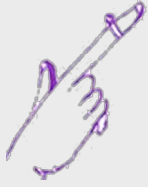
Attractively written manuscript in pocket format and with clean wide margins of Saint Jerome's lives of Paul, Malchus, and Hilarion. These are texts of considerable narrative charm which exercised an enormous impact on later hagiographic literature, and which continued to be widely read throughout the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance. [TM 87]

\$20,000



[Full description, images and video available online](#)

MONASTIC HISTORIANS SERVING THE KINGS OF FRANCE



cinques de
Guillaume de
moine de h denys

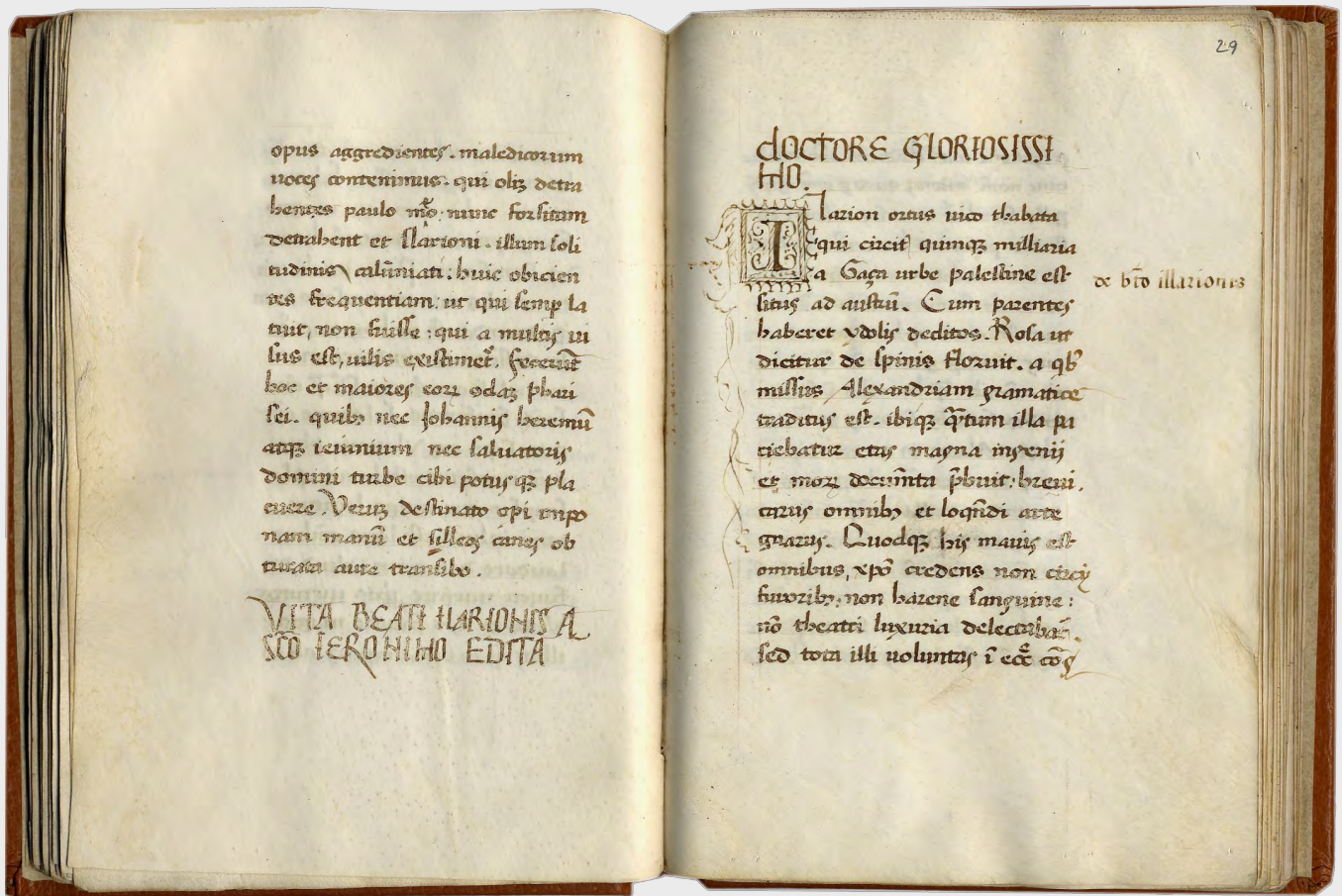
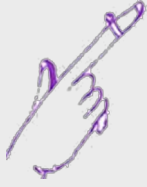
I Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re
 II Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re
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 XXVII Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re
 XXVIII Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re
 XXIX Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re
 XXX Comment par le table dit de baytes adout re

Dulget curi de feuf
1403

[5. ~ TM 1014]

Full description and images available online

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY FROM LATE ANTIQUITY



opus aggredientes. maledictorum
 uoces contemimus. qui olim detra
 hentes paulo nro. nunc forsitam
 detrahent et Hilarioni. illum soli
 uicinis calumniati. huic obicien
 tes frequentiam. ut qui semp la
 tur. non fuisse: qui a multis ui
 lus est. uilis existimet. fecerit
 hoc et maiores eorum odas phari
 sci. quibus nec Iohannis beati
 atq; ieiunium nec saluatoris
 domini turbe cibi potusq; pla
 cuit. Verus destinato opi impo
 nam manū et illosq; amos ob
 turam ante transibit.

VITA BEATI HILARIONIS A
 SCSO IERONIMO EDITA

DOCTORE GLORIOSISSIMO HIL.

Ilaron oras uico thabata
 qui circit quinq; miliaria
 a Saga urbe palestine est de bto hilarionis
 litis ad austru. Cum parentes
 haberet uolys deditos. Nota ut
 dicitur de spinis floruit. a qb
 nullus Alexandriam gramatice
 traditus est. ibiq; q̄tam illa pu
 tiebatur etis magna ingenij
 et mox decemta p̄buit. breui.
 caris omnibus et loq̄ndi arte
 grauis. Quodq; his manis est
 omnibus. xpo credens non etis
 furoribus. non harenē sanguine:
 nō theatri luxuria delectabatur.
 sed tota illi uoluntas i eē cōq

[6. ~ TM 87]

Full description, images and video available online

7.

On the Death, Magnificence, Miracles, and Life St. Jerome:
PS.-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *De morte Hieronymi*;
PS.-AUGUSTINE, *Ad Cyrillum de magnificentiis Hieronymi*;
PS.-CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, *De miraculis Hieronymi*; and
PS.-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *Vita Sancti Hieronymi*;
JEROME, *Vita sancti Pauli* (Life of St. Paul)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Northern Italy, c. 1440-70

CREATING HISTORY THROUGH FORGERY

DESCRIPTION: 70 folios on parchment, one white vinestem initial and one historiated initial with full border, some soiling, early, likely contemporary, leather binding over wooden boards with added decoration. Dimensions 203 x 153 mm.

The texts included here became the foundational texts for the cult of St. Jerome in the Renaissance. Purporting to be by his contemporaries, they were certainly written much later, perhaps in Rome in the late 13th or 14th century. Widely disseminated in both Latin and in vernacular translations, these texts influenced numerous writers and visual artists. Skillful script, handsome pen initials, and classic humanist white vine initials adorn the text, which begins with an historiated initial depicting an ascetic St. Jerome meditating before the Crucifixion. [TM 656]

\$58,000



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[Full description and images available online](#)

8.

Passio sancti Viti martyris; Historia translationis sancti Viti martyris

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment and paper
Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia (Gladbach or possibly Corvey?), c. 1400-1450 and 1777

SAINTS LIVES AS LOCAL HISTORY

DESCRIPTION: 17 (parchment) + 47 (paper) folios, complete, penwork initials, some marginal patching and stains, 18th-century brown blind-stamped leather binding over wooden boards. Dimensions 206-207 x 146-150 mm.

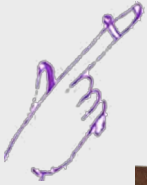
This handsome composite manuscript includes two texts discussing the martyrdom of St. Vitus, the Early Christian saint of Sicily and patron saint of dancing, and the movement of his relics. It was likely copied in part (and possibly in its entirety) at the Benedictine abbey of Gladbach, dedicated to St. Vitus, and it attests to the abbey's efforts to preserve these narratives that were integral to its own history. These texts – one of which is a rare copy of the earliest narrative history of the Benedictine abbey of Corvey – are valuable historical sources. [TM 828]



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[Full description and images available online](#)

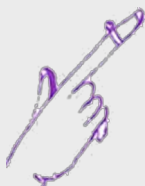
CREATING HISTORY THROUGH FORGERY



[7. ~ TM 656]

Full description and images available online

SAINTS LIVES AS LOCAL HISTORY



apparuit ei sanctus vir ambulans super aquas.
 Ad quem florentia ingens clamore dixit.
 Si angelus dei es libera me. Cuius
 virtus respondit. Ego sum virtus, a domino
 latus humane auctore, et pulchre transmissus
 las ut libem te. quo sepelias corpora nos-
 tra, et quicquid in nomine saluatoris, cum omnibus
 nostris petieris impetrabis. Et hoc ordine
 ab impetu fluminis crepta florentia, col-
 legit corpora sanctorum, et aromatibus condens.
 Sepelivit ea in eodem loco qui dicitur maria-
 nus. ubi requiescit. regnante vigineto
 dei filio domino ihesu christo, cum patre et spiritu
 sancto, saluatore tutore. per cuncta secula secu-
 lorum; Amen.

Prologus in Historiam Translationis S. Jiti M.

Scripsimus aliquid iuxta modum pos-
 sibilitatis nostrae de viribus, quae in mi-
 sericordia Conditoris nostri, modernis temporari-
 bus signata est ostendere propter gloriam
 sancti Jiti. Et illa scriptura, scriptura in ecclesiasticum
 asserimus, ut ad laudem, et gloriam, et immen-
 sis verba veramus, nam etiam laudanda sunt
 pictura, multo magis pictor, etiam gratanter
 naves, vel qualibet vehicula, quae nobis victum,
 vel certe vestimentum adferunt, suscipiunt, vni-
 versales tamen gratias et, eius Transmissi, nobis
 tribuit. Sed equum laus hominis, et ipsa
 Trinitati, quae nos iam facere voluit, et
 eius voluntatem suam, et in omnibus scholis, hanc
 suam, glorificet eum in omni creatura, et in om-
 nis status, omnibusque aetatibus, qui omnem homi-
 nem, vel daturum facere, et ad similitudinem ve-
 ritatis venire. O Conditor, a bone dulcissime
 Domine, qui non timides, aut quis non ad de-
 um, et in corde suo diligit, et ab initio enim,
 et ante saecula, et in saecula, et in saecula, et
 et hoc multiplicare, multiplicare modis, nam
 postquam nostris meritis in hunc caliginosum
 et in hunc carcerem decidimus, nec elevare nos

[8. ~ TM 828]

Full description and images available online