

APOSTOLI
Magnificat
Symbolum

ging daselbst mit Angst und Furcht sein Leiden nun anfang;

führte eine bewaffnete Schar mit Fackel und Latern

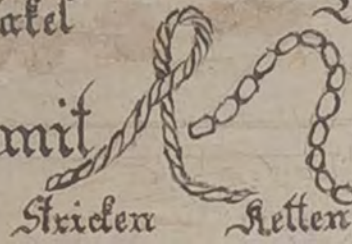


Schar

Fackel

Latern

rausamer noch machen, sie banden ihn mit Stricken Ketten unter Spot



Stricken

Ketten

Meister

Top Picks from the Past

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Säule

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Dornenkron

musste tragen, sie führten ihn zur... hinaus mit Stossen



e-Catalogue Eleven

Exploring Text Manuscripts

Lex... jange...



Boh... ree

... xxx ... Schmerzen, da...

TEXTMANUSCRIPTS

LES ENLUMINURES

e-Catalogue Eleven Exploring Text Manuscripts

TOP PICKS FROM THE PAST

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e-Catalogue Eleven

Exploring Text Manuscripts

This new series of e-catalogues focuses on select themes of text manuscripts available in our inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com. This series follows two earlier series of text manuscript catalogues, including the Primers. These remain available in digital form on our website and in print by order.

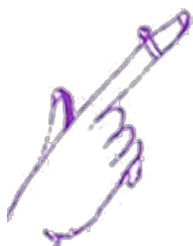
Look for our e-catalogues on the first Tuesday of the month.

Top Picks from the Past

In this catalogue, we return to some of our favorite manuscripts from the extensive inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com to demonstrate how diverse, and often surprising, that inventory is. There are now 1072 manuscripts on our text manuscripts site, which includes both current inventory, and items that are now sold (sold inventory remains on the site for reference and study). Each of our twelve favorites teaches something new. Here are books that were used for more than reading (amulets, talismans, receptacles for pilgrims' badges); books that are neither rolls nor codices (a folding genealogical 'roll'); books that contain precious evidence of how they were made (a university pecia manuscript). Other manuscripts bring to life the diversity of medieval culture: a Hebrew

manuscript of a work by a great Christian theologian and saint; medieval philosophy copied by a German scribe in Crete, in Latin but with a short coda in a very rare Baltic language. Here too are demonstrations of the evidentiary value of the image: nuns depicted singing in their own book; a marsupial discovered in a manuscript copied for a Portuguese nun. **And more besides. We hope this glimpse of our past will whet your appetite for our future offerings.**

Sandra Hindman and Laura Light



1.

Illustrated Textual Amulet: Extracts from Four Gospels; Sixty-six Divine Names; Apocryphal Letter of Christ to Agbar (The Heavenly Letter)

In Latin, with some Old Catalan, illuminated parchment sheet
Spain (Catalonia), c. 1430-1450

AMULET: WORDS AND IMAGES FOR PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION: *One parchment sheet, glued onto backing, illustration of the arma christi in ink with color wash, in very good condition apart from wear along some fold lines, unbound. Dimensions 175 x 176 mm.*

Medieval men and women believed that written words and images had power. Carrying this sheet of parchment, neatly folded, with its holy texts and drawing of the *Arma Christi* (the objects associated with Christ's Passion), provided protection from evil and forgiveness of sin. People in special danger, including women during childbirth, depended on amulets to keep them safe or to secure their salvation if they died. Medieval textual amulets of any type are rare; this is a particularly fine example, quite exceptional in the level of professionalism exhibited in its script and decoration.

[TM 797]

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[Full description and images available online](#)

2.

Medical Talisman for Childbirth from a Birthing Kit

In Latin and French, illuminated manuscript on
parchment and paper,
France, c. 1475-1500

TALISMAN: THE PHYSICAL POWER OF THE IMAGE

DESCRIPTION: *1 bifolium and one single sheet, parchment, two marginal illustrations in color: wooden ruler or cross, whose length multiplied by 15 gives the length of the body of Christ and the side wound of Christ, unbound, with carrying bag. Dimensions 170 x 120 mm.*

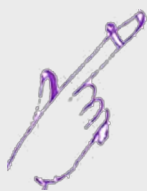
This unusual example of a birthing talisman was made from two leaves (an inner bifolium) removed from a manuscript, folded, and protected by a third single leaf from the same manuscript. Its images and prayers promised fertility as well as safety in childbirth. The text describes the illustrations: "This is the measure and length of our Lord Jesus Christ, if there should be a woman that cannot bear children, place this cross or prayer on her with a holy candle and piously repeat once 'Pater Noster' Immediately she will carry a child without peril, remembering the precious body of God"; "This is the measure of the holy side wound of Our Lord If a woman wears this measure during labor, she will give birth without complications" [TM 15]

SOLD

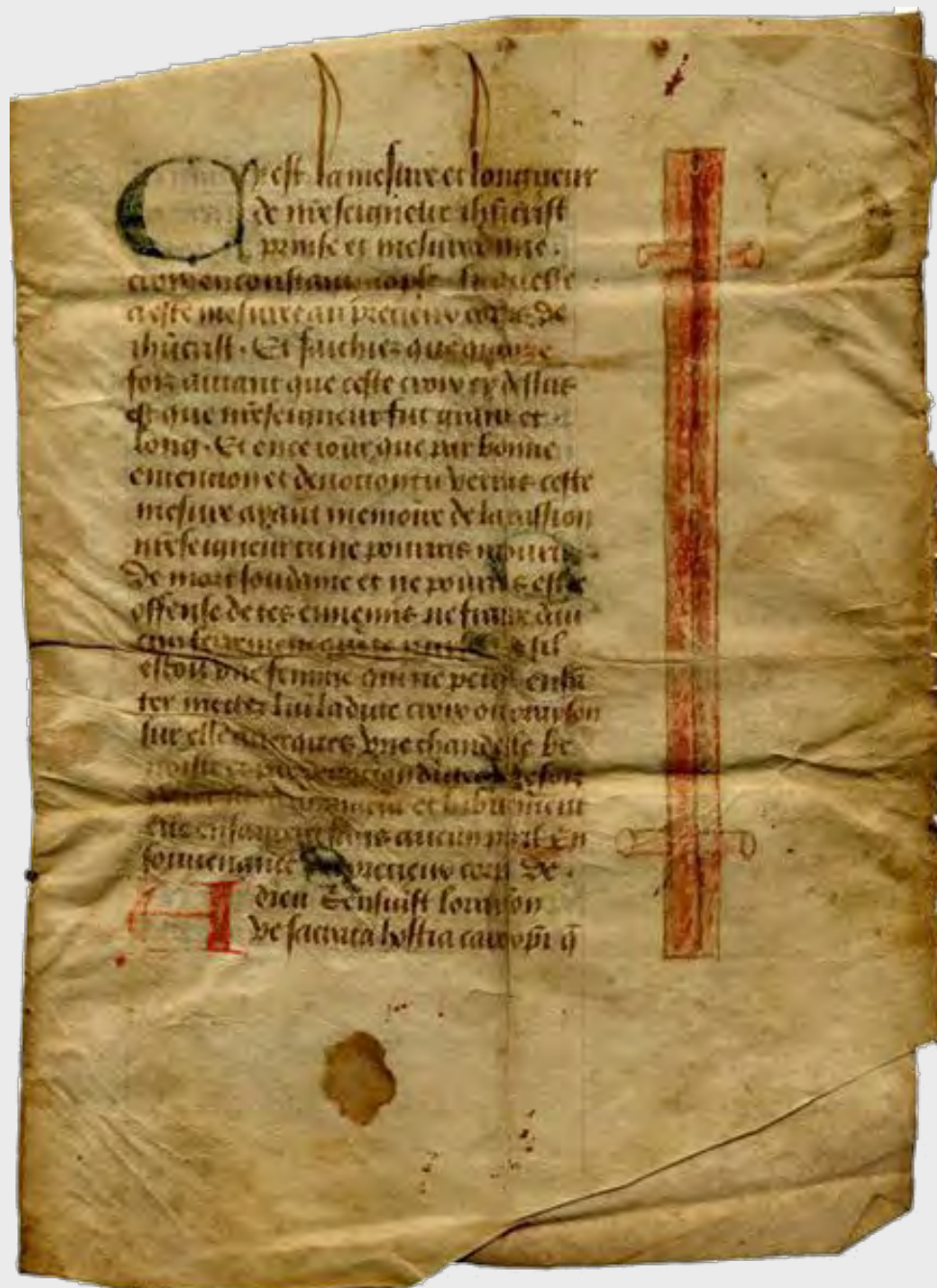


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[Full description and images available online](#)



TALISMAN: THE PHYSICAL POWER OF THE IMAGE



[2. ~ TM 15]

[Full description and images available online](#)

3.

Book of Hours (Use of Angers) with pilgrims' badges

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (Angers?), 1450-1475

TREASURE CHEST OF DEVOTION AND PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION: 80 folios on parchment, incomplete, lacking six leaves, one quire at the beginning and quires before quire iv, 4 illuminated initials with borders, 6 metal badges and one devotional image on parchment, 16th-century blind-tooled brown leather binding. Dimensions 178-173 x 127-122 mm.

Not only would this book have served a clear devotional purpose, guiding its owner through his or her daily prayers, but it also served as a repository for devotional objects gathered by one or more of its early owners in a far less quotidian context. The thin metal badges sewn within the pages of this volume are pilgrims' badges, souvenirs sold at pilgrimage churches that devout travelers could affix to their clothing or hats as a mark of identification or even as a protective talisman. It is extremely rare for these badges to survive intact within medieval books, as these have, and seven badges in a single, previously unstudied book is an exciting find. [TM 922]

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[Full description and images available online](http://www.textmanuscripts.com)

4.

Genealogical Chronicle of the Bible and the Kings of England to Edward IV

In Latin, illustrated manuscript on parchment
England (London or Westminster), after 1471, before 1483

UNUSUAL FORMAT: ROLL AND CODEX IN ONE

DESCRIPTION: One single leaf and nine double leaves on parchment, in roll-codex format, i.e. a single-sided roll of four membranes folded concertina-style to form a codex, copied transversely so the text reads top to bottom, like a roll, penwork initials, minor stains and rodent damage, last leaf worn, unbound. Dimensions 340 x 230 mm

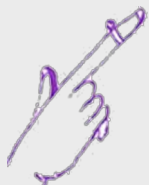
Medieval rolls are not uncommon, but they are always of special interest. The format of this manuscript is even more interesting. It is an example of a roll-codex, copied to read like a roll, from top to bottom, but folded concertina fashion to form a codex, which must be turned to be read. The text is an unpublished genealogical chronicle of the kings of England, now beginning imperfectly, but which originally would have included Adam to Edward IV. Texts such as these have become important sources for historians of fifteenth-century England, illustrating attitudes toward governance and kingship among the urban and rural gentry. [TM 467]

SOLD



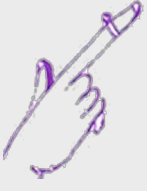
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TREASURE CHEST OF DEVOTION AND PROTECTION

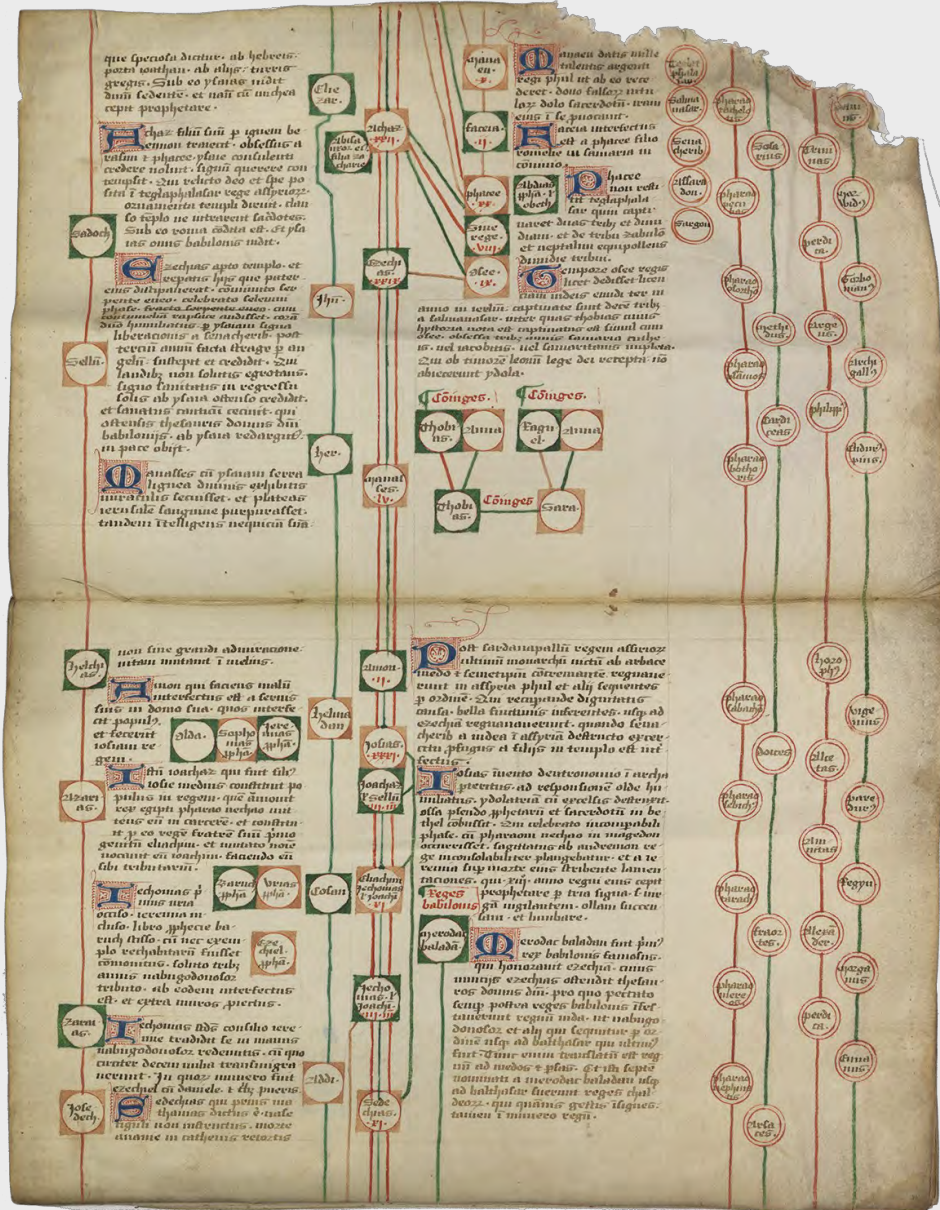


[3. ~ TM 922]

Full description and images available online



UNUSUAL FORMAT: ROLL AND CODEX IN ONE



[4. ~ TM 467]

Full description and images available online

5.

Marriage certificate for Mermet Frère and Jeannette Paquelon

In Latin, illuminated document on parchment

France (Lyons), dated 1476

UNEXPECTED PRESENTATION: ILLUMINATED DOCUMENT

DESCRIPTION: *single sheet of parchment, full illuminated border. Dimensions 385 x 250 mm.*

Illuminated documents – indulgences, diplomas, charters, contracts, marriage certificates – are exceptions in the field of diplomatics. This very beautiful certificate commemorates the marriage of Mermet Frère of Brussieu and Jeannette Paquelon of Courzieu in 1476. The two families lived west of Lyons; Brussieu and Courzieu are less than four miles apart. The couple is attested in the Lyonnais parish records, and they had two children, Barthélémy and Simon. Mermet Frère died in 1533. [TM 837]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

6.

BERNARD OF BOTONE, *Casus longi quinque libros decretalium*

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment

France (Paris?), c. 1300-1325

REVELATORY MARGINAL ANNOTATIONS: COPYING FROM PECIA EXEMPLARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

DESCRIPTION: *123 folios on parchment, complete, penwork initials, 68 pecia marks, numerous contemporary marginal annotations, bound in 15th-century German blind-stamped brown calf over thick wooden boards, rebacked. Dimensions 285 x 195 mm.*

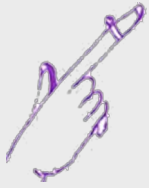
Previously unknown and unpublished manuscript of one of the most important glosses on Gregory's *Decretals*, this is of special interest because of the numerous pecia marks in the margins (there are 68 such notations!), proving it was copied from a university exemplar rented by the pecia (or piece). This text is included in the two University of Paris lists of pecia exemplars available for copying. Manuscripts with pecia marks are not common, and one that includes so many is especially so. [TM 372]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

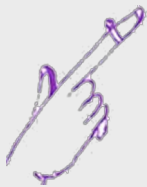
UNEXPECTED PRESENTATION: ILLUMINATED DOCUMENT



[5. ~ TM 837]

[Full description and images available online](#)

REVELATORY MARGINAL ANNOTATIONS: COPYING FROM PECIA EXEMPLARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS



[6. ~ TM 372]

Full description and images available online

7.
THOMAS AQUINAS, *Commentary on Aristotle's Metaphysics*

In Hebrew, manuscript on paper
Spain, Castile (Ocaña), dated 1490-1491

EVIDENCE OF RELIGIOUS, LINGUISTIC, AND INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION: 303 folios on paper, almost complete, damp staining and other wear, modern repairs throughout, modern black buckram binding. Dimensions 223 x 155 mm.

Philosophical works or works of general theology not overtly Christian by at least fifteen medieval Christian writers were translated into Hebrew during the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. This is a unique and unpublished Hebrew translation of Thomas Aquinas's commentary on Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, the only extant translation in Hebrew of this work, translated in the late fifteenth century by Abraham ben Joseph ibn Nahmias, probably a member of the Portuguese Ibn Nahmias family, who pioneered Hebrew printing in Constantinople after the expulsion of the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula in 1492. Abraham recommends studying the philosophy of the Christians, especially that of Thomas Aquinas. Dated and localized by inscription, the manuscript has an illustrious modern provenance in the Zunz and Montefiore collections. [TM 123]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

8.
PAUL OF VENICE, *Logica parva*

In Latin, with an insert in a Baltic language, Lithuanian or Old Prussian, manuscript on paper
Chania, Crete (Republic of Venice), dated 1439-1440

LINGUISTIC DISCOVERY: TANTALIZING INSCRIPTION BY A GERMAN WRITING IN CRETE

DESCRIPTION: 104 folios on paper, complete, one large painted initial, red initials, three diagrams, half-bound modern leather binding. Dimensions 208 x 140 mm.

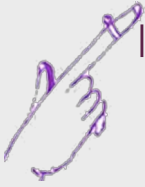
The significance of this manuscript lies not only in its principal text – a splendid copy in a very fine hand of one of the most important late medieval texts on the philosophy of logic – but also in the addition in red ink to the final page. Written by a Baltic German on the island of Crete, then part of the Venetian Republic, this fragmentary secular text in a Baltic language with connections to both Old Prussian and Lithuanian is an important linguistic discovery. Old Prussian is otherwise known in only one or two fragmentary texts prior to 1500; written Lithuanian is not otherwise significantly attested until the sixteenth century. [TM 660]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

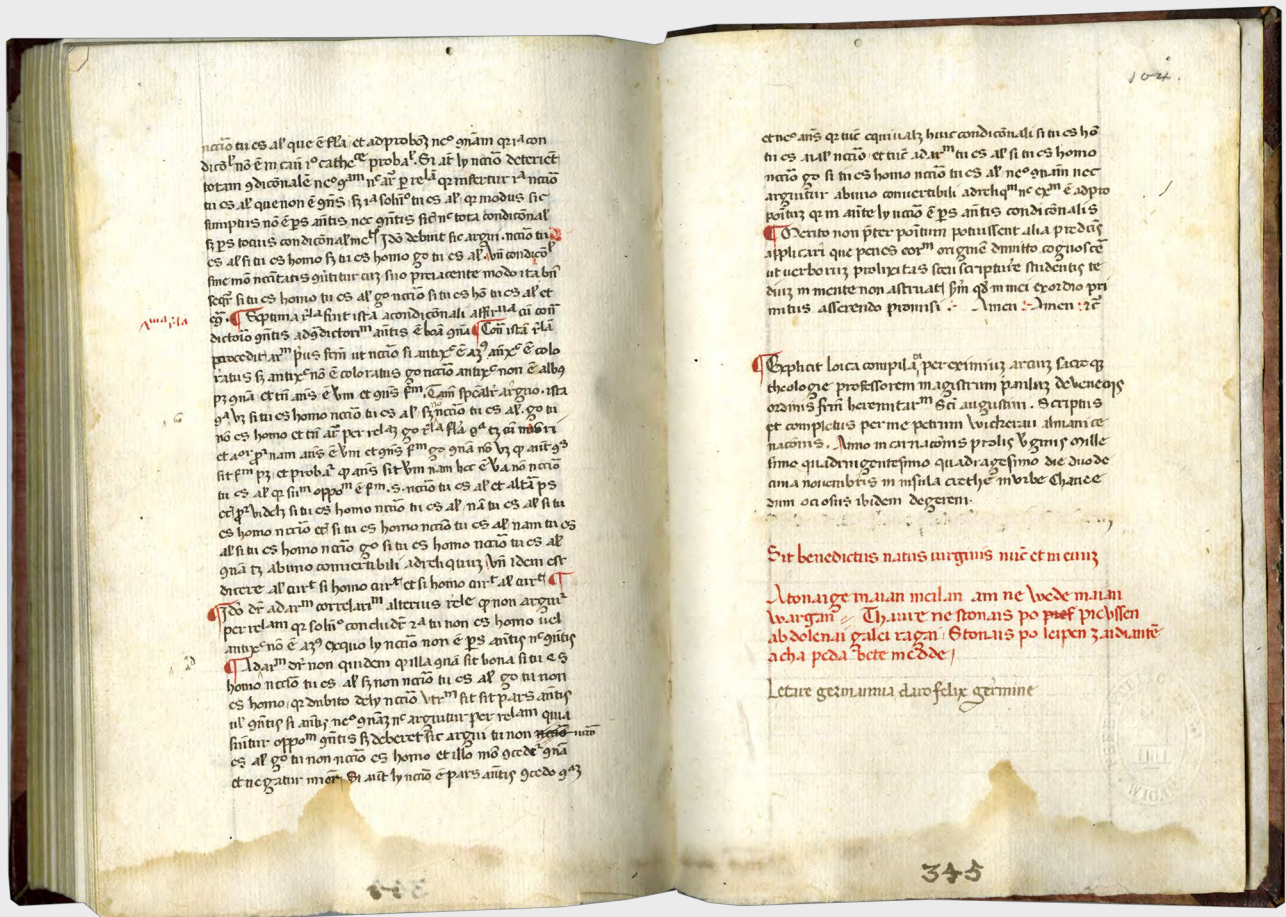
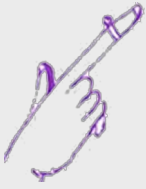
EVIDENCE OF RELIGIOUS, LINGUISTIC, AND INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY



[7. ~ TM 123]

Full description and images available online

LINGUISTIC DISCOVERY: TANTALIZING INSCRIPTION BY A GERMAN WRITING IN CRETE



[8. ~ TM 660]

Full description and images available online

9.

Processional (Use of the Dominican Nuns of Poissy)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

with musical notation

France (Paris), 1505-1515

THE SINGING NUNS OF POISSY

DESCRIPTION: 169 folios on parchment, complete, 18 miniatures within Renaissance architectural frames, fine 17-century gold-tooled red morocco binding. Dimensions 160 x 110 mm.

This hitherto unknown Processional and its twin are the most luxurious of twelve early sixteenth-century Processionals made for the celebrated royal convent of Saint-Louis de Poissy. Its extraordinary miniatures pair the expected religious iconography with charming vignettes of the nuns of Poissy as they walk and sing in the religious processions included in this very book. Painted by Jean Coene IV, one of the leading illuminators in Paris, this manuscript was undoubtedly made for a nun from the highest echelons of French society. [TM 1019]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

10.

Processional (monastic use, perhaps Cistercian)

In Latin with some Portuguese, illuminated manuscript on paper

Portugal (perhaps Caldas da Rainha), c. 1580-1620

UNEXPECTED FINDS: IMAGE OF A MARSUPIAL

DESCRIPTION: 63 folios on paper, complete, 2-line inhabited initials, larger painted initials, first leaf discolored, significant ink-burn, bound in contemporary brown morocco. Dimensions 185 x 120 mm.

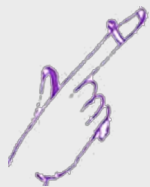
An example of the continuation of medieval traditions, this carefully copied Processional is distinguished by its numerous charming pen initials. Of particular interest are the images reflecting Portuguese exploration, including a kangaroo or wallaby and two small human figures, possibly natives of Australia or elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Exactly which European nation was the first to discover Australia is still unclear. While it is well established that the Dutch mariner Willem Janszoon and his crew contacted Cape York in 1606, it is also possible that Portuguese mariners might have preceded the Dutch. Does this manuscript offer evidence in support of the theory that Portuguese explorers were the first Europeans to “discover” Australia? [TM 724]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

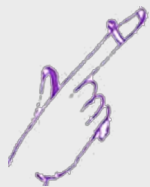
THE SINGING NUNS OF POISSY



[9. ~ TM 1019]

[Full description and images available online](#)

UNEXPECTED FINDS: IMAGE OF A MARSUPIAL



[10. ~ TM 724]

[Full description and images available online](#)

11.

Prayer Book

In Dutch and Latin, decorated manuscript on paper, with three woodcut illustrations from the Carmelite nuns of Vilvoorde, and musical notation

Southern Netherlands (probably West Flanders), c. 1500-1525 (ff. 1-12, c. 1440-1460)

TRADITIONAL METHODS (HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT) AND NEW TECHNOLOGY (WOODBLOCK PRINTS)

DESCRIPTION: 169 folios on parchment, complete, 18 miniatures within Renaissance architectural frames, fine 17-century gold-tooled red morocco binding. Dimensions 160 x 110 mm.

A small hybrid prayer book copied for a yet unidentified house of religious women, this is a charming and interesting example of a manuscript copied in the age of printing. The numerous prayers in both Latin and Dutch are firmly rooted in the Middle Ages. At least nine different scribes copied the manuscripts in a variety of scripts ranging from medieval gothic to a remarkably skillful humanistic cursive. It is illustrated with three fine hand-colored woodcuts, made by the Carmelite nuns of Vilvoorde, near Brussels. [TM 863]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

12.

Passion and Resurrection of Christ, told in words and images as a Rebus

In German, illustrated manuscript broadside on paper, glued to a large parchment document (a *Lehrbrief*, dated 1744)

Southern Germany or Austria, c. 1750-1850

CHARMING AND PUZZLING IN EQUAL MEASURE

DESCRIPTION: Broadsheet on paper, glued to a parchment document, complete, 87 small pictures, fully colored, a few lines of text and images damaged, framed. Dimensions 607 x 394 mm.

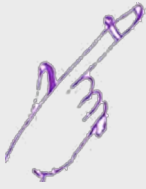
Large broadside on the Passion of Christ, a very rare, and certainly very charming, example of a religious rebus for children copied and decorated by hand. Rebuses on religious topics date back to the seventeenth century in Germany, with the printing of the first Hieroglyphic Bible in 1684. Children were the intended audience for these texts which tried to express serious ideas in an engaging and more memorable fashion by replacing occasional words with small pictures. Most religious broadsides were printed. This hand-made example raises interesting (and still unanswered) questions about its origin: who made it, when, and why? [TM 1117]

SOLD



[Full description and images available online](#)

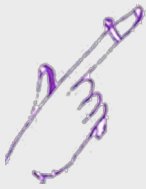
TRADITIONAL METHODS (HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT
AND NEW TECHNOLOGY (WOODBLOCK PRINTS)



[11. ~ TM 863]

[Full description and images available online](#)

CHARMING AND PUZZLING IN EQUAL MEASURE



[12. ~ TM 1117]

Full description and images available online