

Excuse my French

... grande
 ... la samete
 ... furent appellez
 ... et puis en la fin
 ... a grant lignee et
 ... habitations et grans
 ... uoyes et gloirent avecqz
 ... oyent auoultres bastars
 ... usoyent furent ilz tous peris
 ... et leurs femces qui furent saul
 ... ieu. p. l.

Coment adam
 mensa a laborer
 la terre. 2e.

Eue.



... am qui
 ... abel
 ... irex.

Calmana
 femme cam.

Abel qui
 mourut auat
 quil eust hou.

Eseph des
 quit. 10.
 17. ans.

Abel second filz adā
 fut berquier cestuy
 faisoit sacrifices
 de ses bestes adieu et grans
 oblations et de bone volonte
 vertueuse et pourece multipli
 oit fort si en eut cam son frere
 eul et en dieu et puis occist ca
 abel son frere assm quil neust
 ... 2e.

Euos desijt
 10. 6. ans.

Capnam
 desquit. 10.
 10. ans.

Malacl
 desquit. 10.
 10. ans.

e-Catalogue Three
 Exploring Text Manuscripts



TEXTMANUSCRIPTS

LES ENLUMINURES

e-Catalogue Three Exploring Text Manuscripts

EXCUSE MY FRENCH

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e-Catalogue Two

Exploring Text Manuscripts

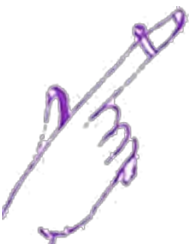
This new series of e-Catalogues focuses on select themes of text manuscripts available in our inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com. We begin with "Women and the Book" a topic of considerable interest and well represented among our holdings. These catalogues follow two earlier series of text manuscript 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 "Manuscripts \$12,000 and less" and "The "I" in Manuscript.

"Excuse my French"

"If we want to eavesdrop on the actual words of the medieval courts, or the banter of trade, or the inmost thoughts of private piety, it will not be in Latin but in medieval French, English, German, Dutch, or Italian," so says the inimitable Christopher de Hamel. In this list, we present ten manuscripts in French. Each broadens our picture of medieval and Renaissance society. Canon Law is the law of the church, and Latin was undoubtedly the language of clerics. A thirteenth-century Canon Law manuscript in French reminds us that viewing the civilization of the Middle Ages exclusively through the lens of Latin is much too narrow. Included are histories, feudal records, and texts exploring ethical and religious behavior, some originally composed in French, others translated from Latin. For the classroom and the collector, these manuscripts bring to life the stories of men and women in everyday life in the past.

Sandra Hindman and Laura Light



1.

[ANONYMOUS], French translation of the Decretals of Gregory IX

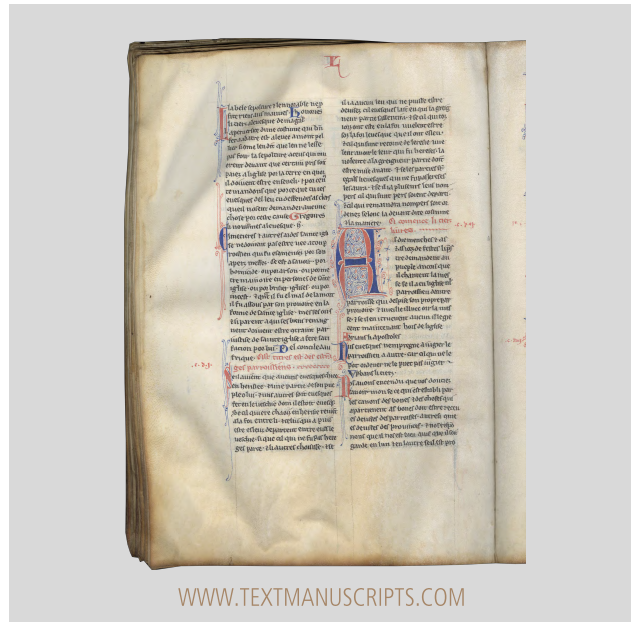
in French, decorated manuscript on parchment Northern France (possibly Paris), c. 1250-1275

WHO READS CANON LAW? (NOT ONLY CLERICS)

DESCRIPTION: 72 folios on parchment, incomplete at the beginning and end, missing a quire after quire six and lacking 8 additional leaves internally, penwork initials, first leaf detached, stains and other signs of wear, cockled, unbound, with sewing intact. Dimensions 315 x 225 mm.

This unedited Old French translation of the Decretals of Pope Gregory IX survives in just twelve other manuscripts, in addition to this substantial fragment, none in the United States, and all but one in institutional collections. The existence of this translation, once owned and used by high-ranking nobles in the Capetian court, is a vivid reminder of the importance of canon law beyond the confines of the clergy. Thirteenth-century texts in French are rare on the market; this text is very rare indeed. [TM 1097]

\$60,000



Full description and images available online

2.

JACQUES LEGRAND, Le livre de bonnes mœurs (The Book of Good Manners)

In French, manuscript on paper France (Burgundy), or Switzerland (Basel?), c. 1450

HOW TO WRITE A BESTSELLER (AN AUTHOR'S TRANSLATION OF HIS OWN TEXT)

DESCRIPTION: 139 folios on paper, complete, red and blue initials, damaged throughout from damp, text space darkened but legible, 19th-century cartonnage binding. Dimensions 214 x 138 mm.

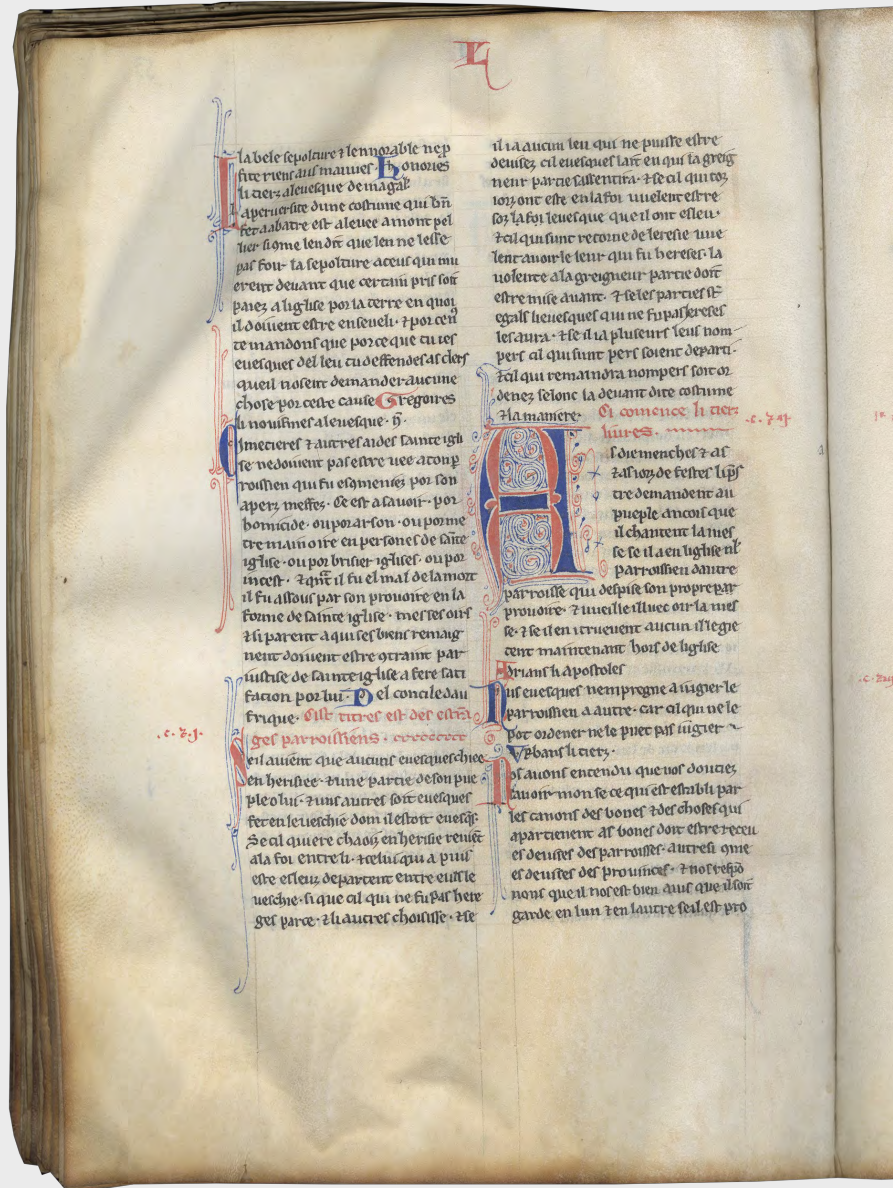
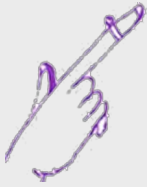
An opportunity to acquire a copy of the Livre de bonnes mœurs by the French humanist Jacques Legrand, a text that was a bestseller in its day, circulating among the ruling elite at the French and Burgundian courts in luxurious, illuminated copies. This manuscript is not illuminated, but it is copied in a very elegant calligraphic bookhand that echoes the script of many of the luxury copies. Its text is of interest, since it appears to contain the first version, written six years before the final edition dedicated to Duke Jean de Berry [TM 722]

\$35,000



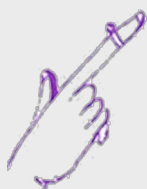
Full description and images available online

WHO READS CANON LAW? (NOT ONLY CLERICS)

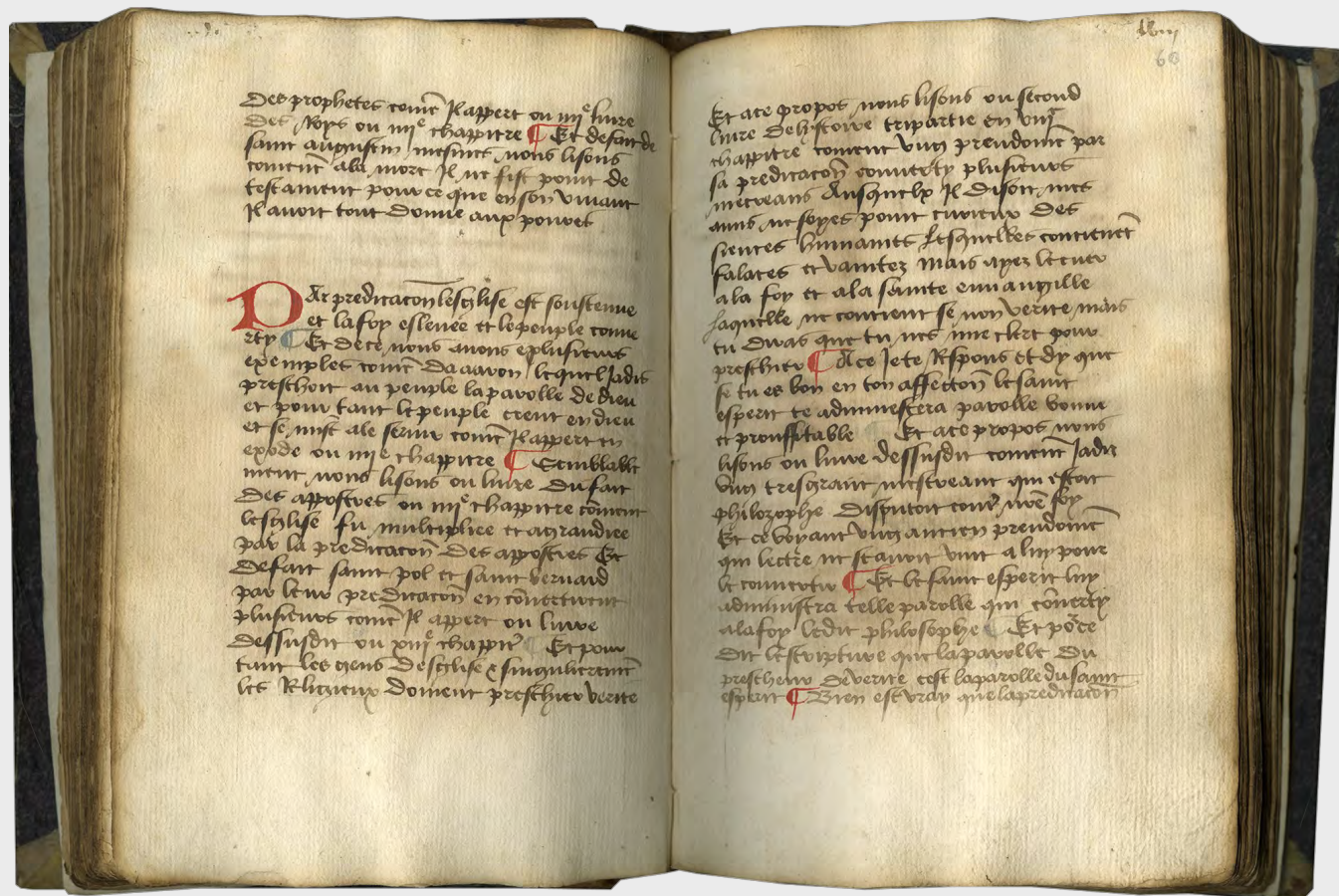


[1. ~ TM 1097]

Full description and images available online



HOW TO WRITE A BESTSELLER (AN AUTHOR'S TRANSLATION OF HIS OWN TEXT)



[2. ~ TM 722]

Full description and images available online

3.

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

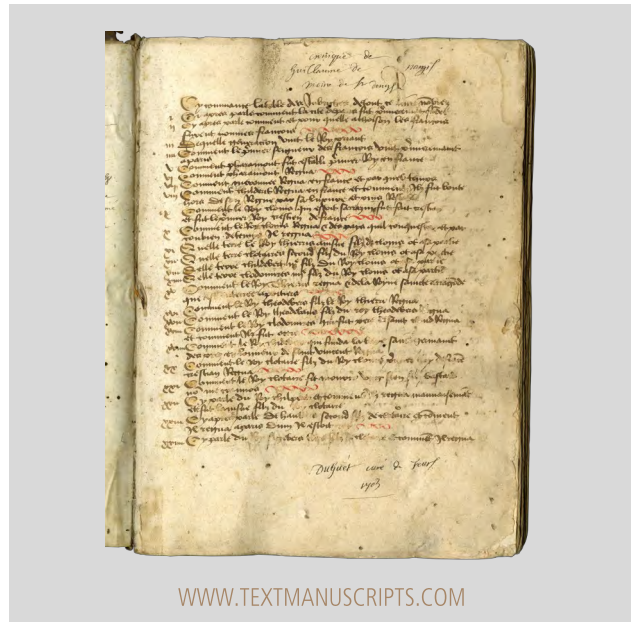
In French, manuscript on paper
France, c. 1450-1500

HISTORY, PROPAGANDA, ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Guillaume de Nangis, Benedictine monk and librarian at the royal Abbey of St.-Denis, was the official chronicler 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. A large-format manuscript in its original binding; there is no modern edition of the text. [TM 1014]

\$110,000



Full description and images available online

4.

[ANONYMOUS], *La voie d'enfer et de paradis* (The path to hell and paradise)

In French, decorated manuscript on paper
France, Bourges, c. 1460

THE WORLD BEYOND THE GRAVE

DESCRIPTION: 139 folios, missing some leaves at the beginning and end, red and blue initials, stains, first leaves a bit frayed, 16th-century parchment binding. Dimensions 212 x 150 mm.

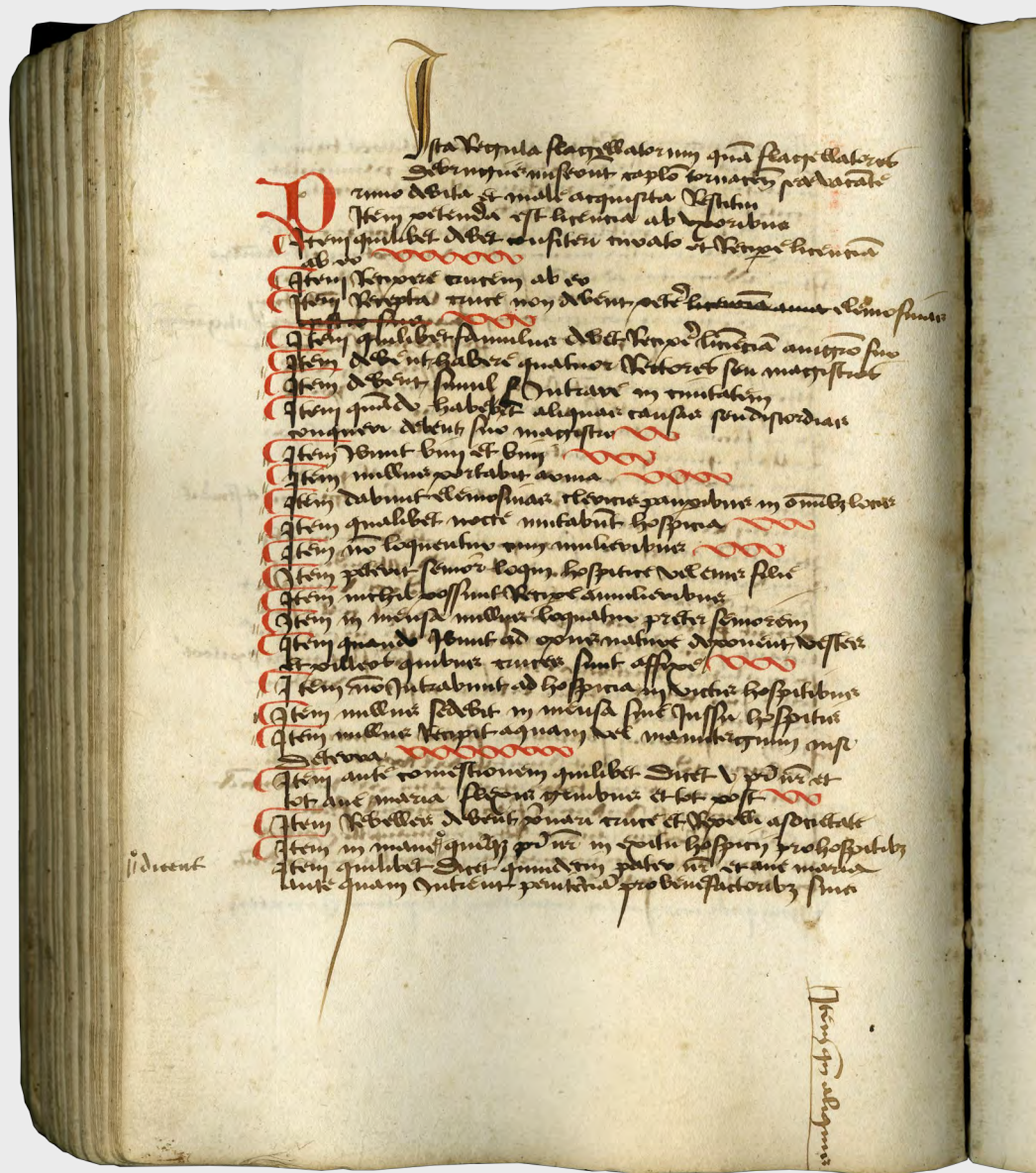
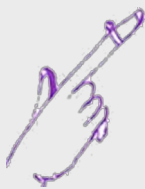
One of only three copies of this versified work, composed by an anonymous author at the end of the fourteenth century and still unpublished. It appears to be an adaptation of the fourteenth-century allegorical work *Voie d'infer et de paradis* by Pierre de l'Hôpital. In the first half of the sixteenth century, it belonged to the Bourges poet and patron of the arts Jacques Thiboust, and contains his heraldic bookstamp, the first of its kind in France. It is listed among his books in his *Liber amicorum*. [TM 775]

\$110,000



Full description and images available online

HISTORY, PROPAGANDA, ENTERTAINMENT



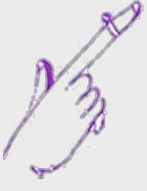
Ita Regula fregit laborum quia ferebat
Sed inquit multorum repleto bonorum pariter
Itaque ostendit est licentia ab yboribus
Itaque quilibet debet suscipere in vobis si tempore licentia
ab eo
Itaque honoris autem ab eo
Itaque Regula tunc non debet esse licentia autem et sine fine
Itaque quilibet famulus debet tempore licentia ampro suo
Itaque debet ut gubere quatuor virtutes seu magister
Itaque debet famulatum in virtutibus
Itaque quilibet habeat aliquam causam per seipsum
consequi debet seu magister
Itaque debet cum et cum
Itaque nullus debet abire arma
Itaque debent et licentia et tunc quatuor in omnibus
Itaque quilibet nocte mittat hospitem
Itaque non loquatur cum mulieribus
Itaque debet semper loqui hospitem vel cum suis
Itaque nullus possit esse amulicibus
Itaque in mensa nullus loquatur prius seniorum
Itaque quando debet ad conuivium dionem deseri
Itaque debet quibus tunc sunt affec
Itaque si quis habuerit ad hospitem in virtutibus
Itaque nullus sedet in mensa sine iussu hospitis
Itaque nullus recipit aquam vel manibus nisi
de manu
Itaque ante conuivium quilibet dicit Vobis et
et ante mensam Regula tunc et licentia
Itaque debet dicit bonum tunc et virtutibus a dicit
Itaque in mensa quilibet dicit in virtutibus pro hospite
Itaque quilibet dicit quilibet dicit in virtutibus
tunc quilibet dicit tunc pro virtutibus sua

11 dicent

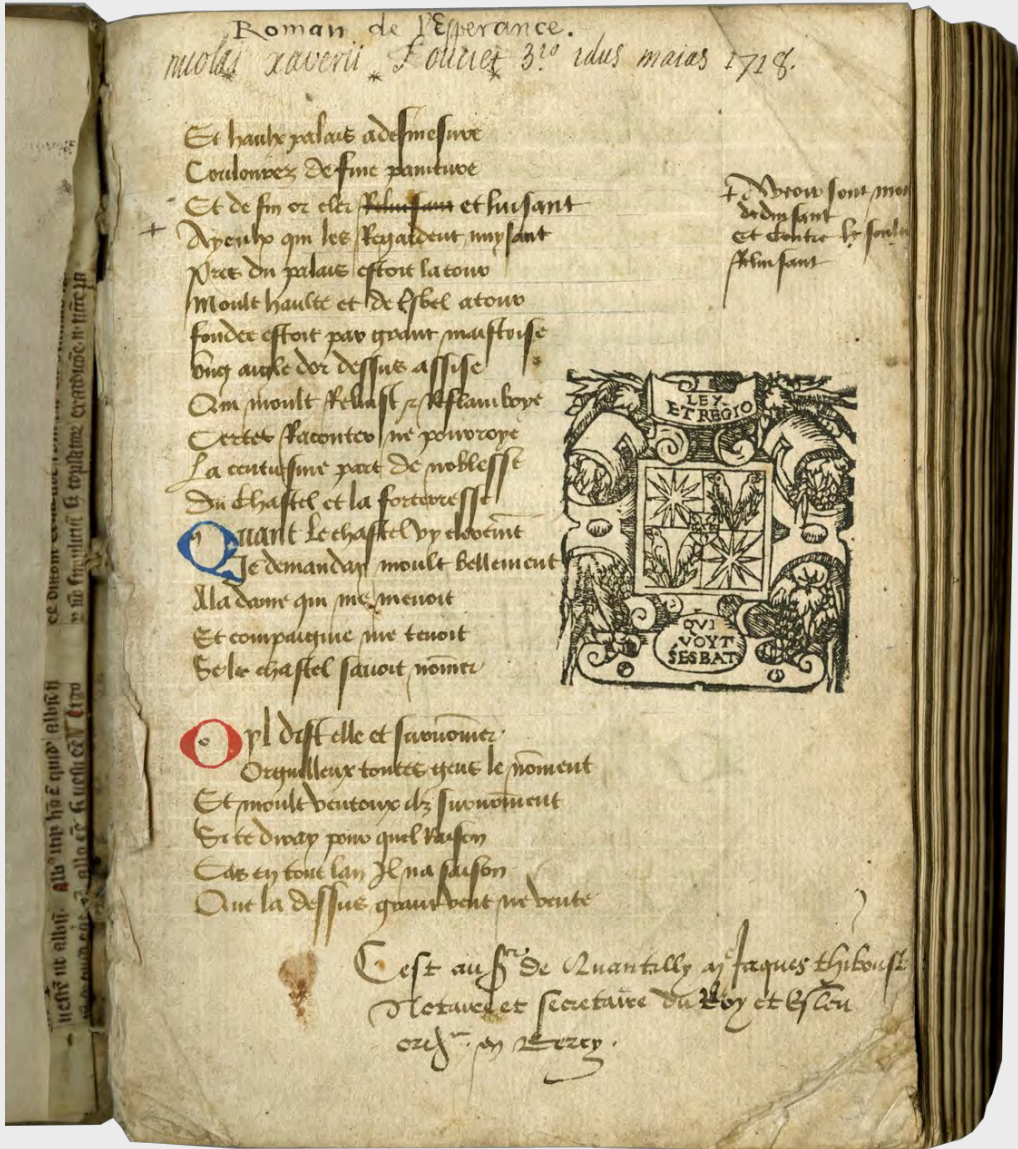
Item in aliquibus

[3. ~ TM 1014]

Full description and images available online



THE WORLD BEYOND THE GRAVE



Roman de l'Esperance.
moult xaverii * Louvres 3^o idus maias 1718.

Et hautes palais adese fine
Couloures de fine pariture
Et de fin or et de fin sam et fin fant
+ Apres qm les regardent mysant
+ Par du palais effort la touz
Moult haulte et de esbel atouz
fondee effort par grand maistrise
Dun angle dor dessus assise
Qui moult se hast et se flam boye
Certes sacontes ne poudroye
La centisme part de noblesse
Du chasteil et la fortresse
Quant le chasteil by estoient
Je demanday moult bellement
Ala damme qui me menoit
Et compaignie me tenoit
Bele chasteil sauoit nomme

+ Adieu sont mes
de fin fant
et de fin le fin
fin fant



Opl dist elle et suuoumer
Orgueilleux toutes yeus le noment
Et moult deutoye dz suuoumer
Et te diray pour quel raison
Car en toue lan Je na raison
Que la dessus gannent me deute

C'est au fr^e de Quantilly a Jacques thibouze
Noture et secretaire du Roy et Escri
uain de l'Esperance.

[4. ~ TM 775]

Full description and images available online

5.

La Chronique anonyme universelle jusque'à la mort de Charles VII

In French, illuminated manuscript scroll on parchment
France (Paris?), c. 1461

IS THERE A BETTER STORY THAN NOAH'S ARK?

DESCRIPTION: *One sheet and a small part of the following section of a scroll on parchment, lacking at top and bottom, illuminated initials, five miniatures, dorse covered with heavy paper, some water stains and tearing at edges.*

Dimensions 853 x 548 mm.

A section from the beginning of a popular universal chronicle, once part of a long illustrated scroll, of which other fragments are known in public and private collections. This fragment presents a very engaging section of the text, which retells biblical history and begins the genealogy of mankind with Adam and Eve. Historical genealogies in roll format were especially popular among the nobility of late medieval Europe. An important example of this genre, our fragment includes miniatures from the workshop of the Maître François, the preeminent Parisian artist at this time. [TM 1139]

\$42,000

Full description, images and video available online



6.

[ANONYMOUS], *Les sept fruits de la tribulation*, and
[ANONYMOUS], *Miroir d'or de l'ame pecheresse*, translation
of JACOBUS DE GRUYTRODE *Speculum aureum animae peccatricis*

In French, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France, after 1482, c. 1490

COMFORT IN THE TIME OF TRIBULATION

DESCRIPTION: *70 folios, complete, red and blue initials, inserted full-page heraldic miniature, slight staining, 19th-century blue velvet binding. Dimensions 274 x 175 mm.*

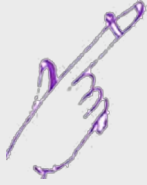
Elegant manuscript containing two works of spiritual and moral edification in French translation. The first text is known in only five extant manuscripts and is still unedited. The second was copied from an incunable edition of c. 1490. With a remarkable added illuminated frontispiece with the coat of arms of Louis de Grolée (fl. late 15th-early 16th century), abbot of Bonnevaux and Saint-Pierre de Vienne. Louis was the proud owner of volumes once owned by King Louis IX and Jean, duc de Berry; the story of his collection and his practice of personalizing his manuscripts with heraldic compositions is waiting to be told. [TM 466]

\$98,000

Full description and images available online



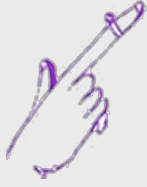
IS THERE A BETTER STORY THAN NOAH'S ARK?



[5. ~ TM 1139]

Full description images and video available online

COMFORT IN THE TIME OF TRIBULATION



[6. ~ TM 466]

Full description and images available online

7.

JEROME, *Letter LIV To Furia* (To Furia, On the Duty of Remaining a Widow), in the translation by CHARLES BONIN

In French, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (likely Bourges), c. 1500-1510

DEAR FURIA, "YOU BEG AND IMPLORE ME TO WRITE TO YOU..."

DESCRIPTION: 63 folios on parchment, complete, blue rubrics, illuminated initials, full-page miniature, contemporary velvet binding. Dimensions 210 x 135 mm.

In its original velvet binding and with a frontispiece painted by the Master of Spencer 6, this deluxe manuscript presents a unique copy of this letter of Jerome by a hitherto unknown translator. Owned by a woman of the French aristocracy, Anne de Polignac, who was widowed twice, this manuscript invites us to re-examine her remarkably varied library, raising questions pertaining to female book ownership and the nature of the reading experiences of French Renaissance women. [TM 935]

\$160,000



Full description, images and video available online

8.

JEAN BODIN, *C'est la declarac[i]on des choses heritaulx* (Declaration of feudal holdings, or "aveu et dénombremments")

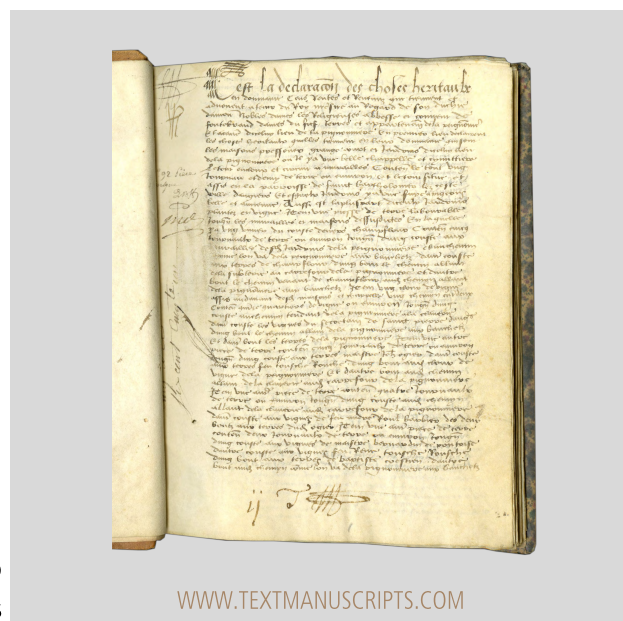
In French, manuscript on parchment
Western France (La Pignonnière, near Angers),
dated March 30, 1511

THE DETAILS OF FEUDALISM

DESCRIPTION: 50 on parchment, complete, cadel initial, bound in 19th-century quarter calf. Dimensions 217 x 160 mm.

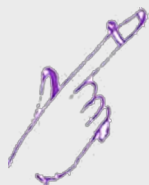
An unpublished manuscript that provides a rare insight into the feudal holdings of the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud. This document is a declaration of the fiefs held by the vassals of one of the principal dependencies of the Abbey, the fiefdom of Pignonnière, in Saint Barthélémy d'Anjou, now a suburb of Angers. Feudal inventories from France are rarely studied, and few have been edited. This manuscript thus offers previously unknown material for exploring late medieval society in Anjou. [TM 869]

\$18,000



Full description and images available online

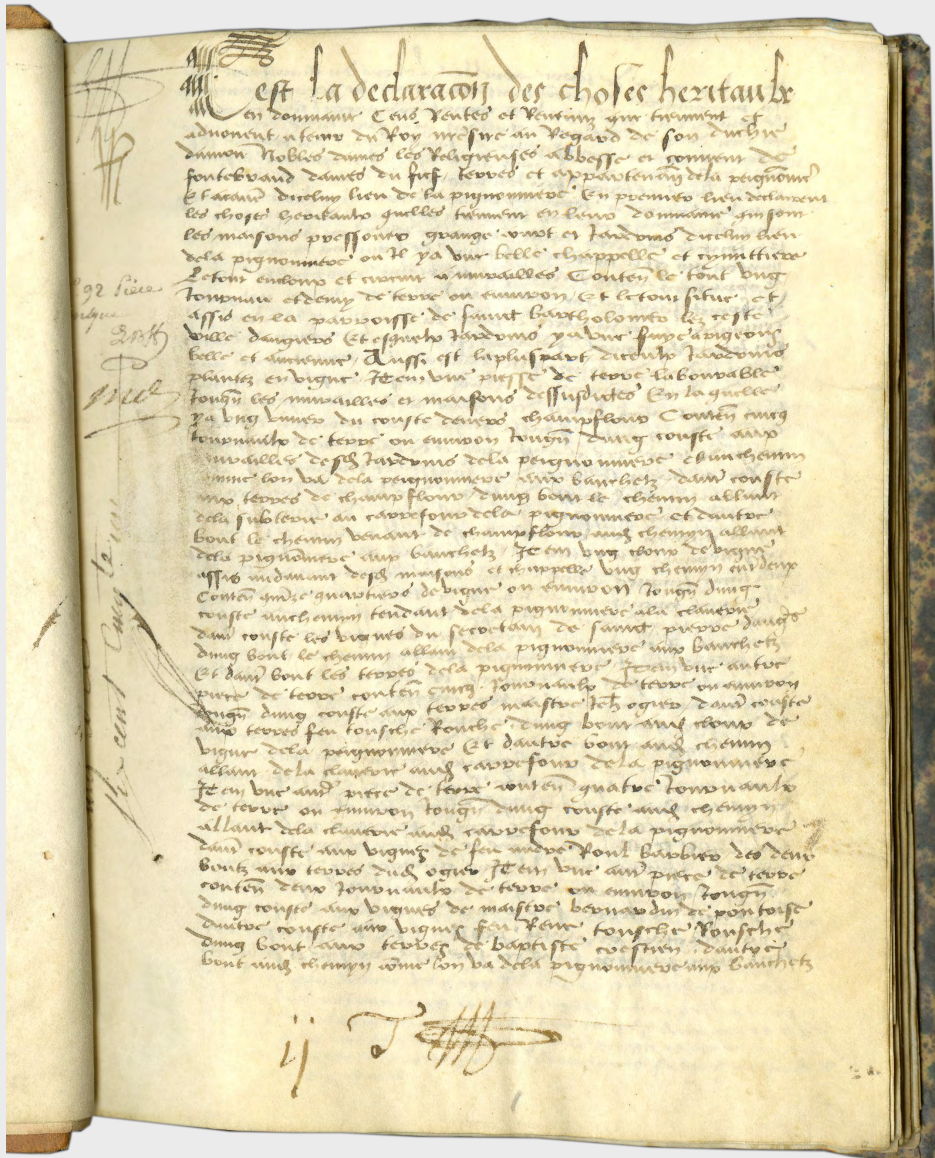
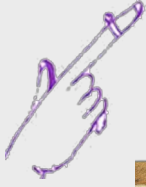
DEAR FURIA, "YOU BEG AND IMPLORE ME TO WRITE TO YOU..."



[7. ~ TM 935]

Full description, images and video available online

THE DETAILS OF FEUDALISM



[8. ~ TM 869]

Full description and images available online

9.

Processional (Dominican use)

In Latin and French, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (Rouen), c. 1520-1530; c. 1525-1550; 1674

NUNS AND VERNACULAR LITERACY

DESCRIPTION: : 67 folios on parchment, complete, 12 large historiated initials (3 rubbed), 2 illuminated borders (slightly trimmed and rubbed), 16th- or 17th-century blind- and gold-tooled binding. Dimensions 225 x 158 mm.

Made for the Dominican nuns of the royal convent of St. Matthew in Rouen, this Processional is a fine example of the skill of the artists working during the last flowering of medieval manuscript illumination in northern France. Larger and certainly more lavishly illuminated than most surviving Processionals, it is a valuable witness to the liturgy and music at this convent. Extensive revisions by the nuns, including adding rubrics in French, make this a multi-layered artifact that will repay further study. [TM 1031]

\$75,000



Full description and images available online

10.

Book of Hours (Use of Rome)

In Latin and French, imprint on parchment
France (Paris), Anthoine Verard, August 22, 1506

A BILINGUAL SOCIETY: FRENCH ALONGSIDE LATIN

DESCRIPTION: 126 folios on parchment, complete, illuminated initials, wood- and metalcuts: 28 small, within the text, 2 small, and 17 large, with figurative throughout, minor stains and cockling, 19th-century brown leather binding by Chambolle-Duru. Dimensions 180 x 108 mm.

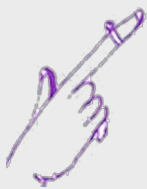
Rare imprint, known only in this copy, of an unrecorded Book of Hours printed for the famed Parisian bookseller and publisher, Anthoine Verard (fl. 1485-1512). Known for his luxurious illuminated printed volumes produced for royal patrons, Verard also published many editions of printed Books of Hours; his 1485 edition may be the first illustrated example of this important genre. The language of this copy is predominantly Latin, but French is creeping in: the almanac, anatomical man, verses in the calendar, captions within the “dance of death” border, and some prayers are in French. [TM 1080]

\$30,000



Full description and images available online

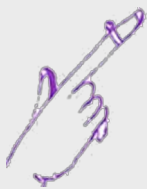
NUNS AND VERNACULAR LITERACY



[9. ~ TM 1031]

Full description and images available online

A BILINGUAL SOCIETY: FRENCH ALONGSIDE LATIN



[10. ~ TM 1080]

Full description and images available online

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