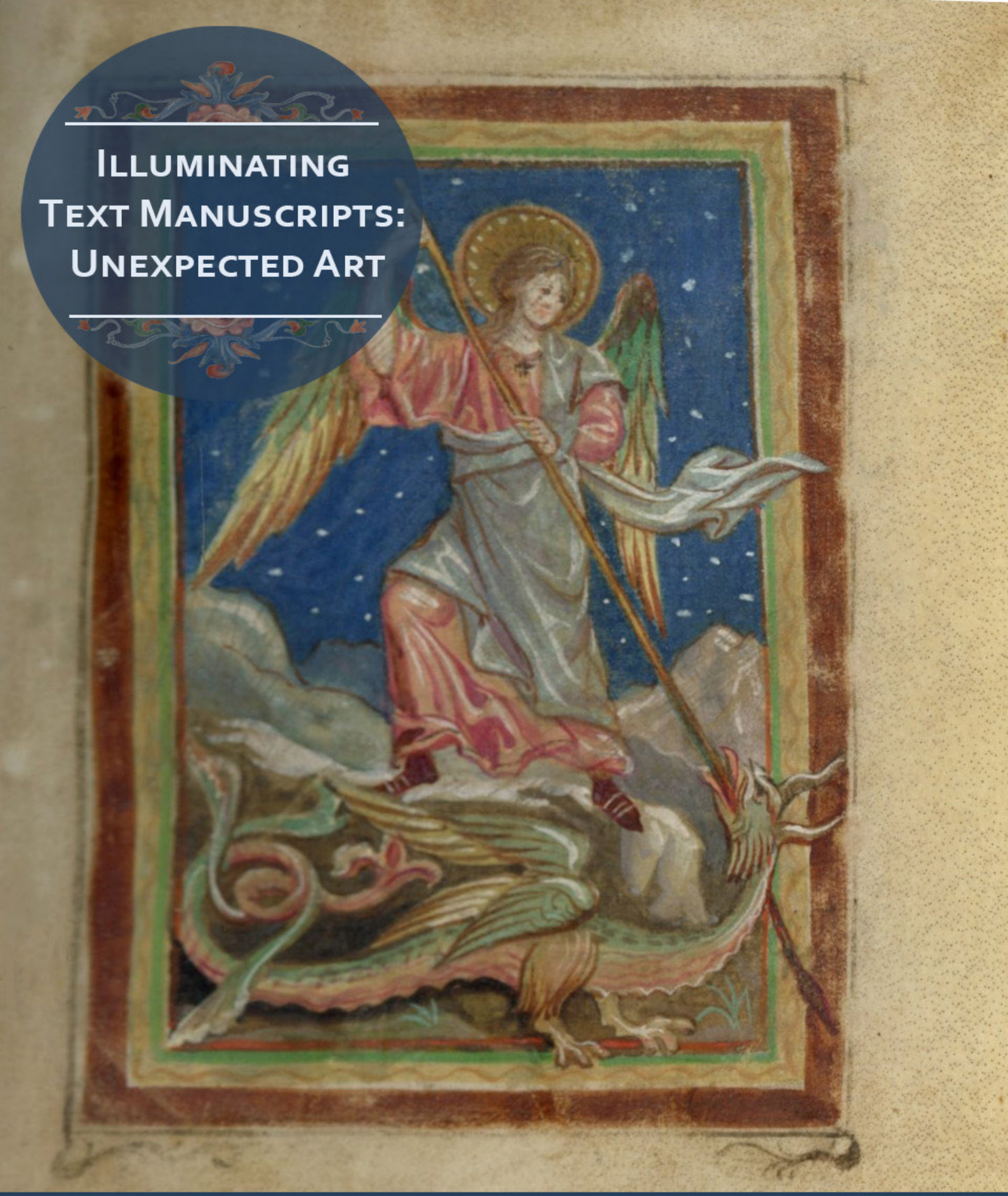
Illuminating Text Manuscripts: Unexpected Art



e-Catalogue Twenty

Exploring Text Manuscripts

TEXTMANUSCRIPTS

Les Enluminures

e-Catalogue Twenty

Illuminating Text Manuscripts: Unexpected Art

Sandra Hindman, Founder and President
sandrahindman@lesenluminures.com

Kathleen Kennedy, Director and Senior Cataloguer
kathleenkennedy@lesenluminures.com

LES ENLUMINURES
21-22 Galerie de Montpensier
Jardin du Palais-Royal,
75001 Paris, France
Tel: (33) (0)1 42 60 15 58
info@lesenluminures.com

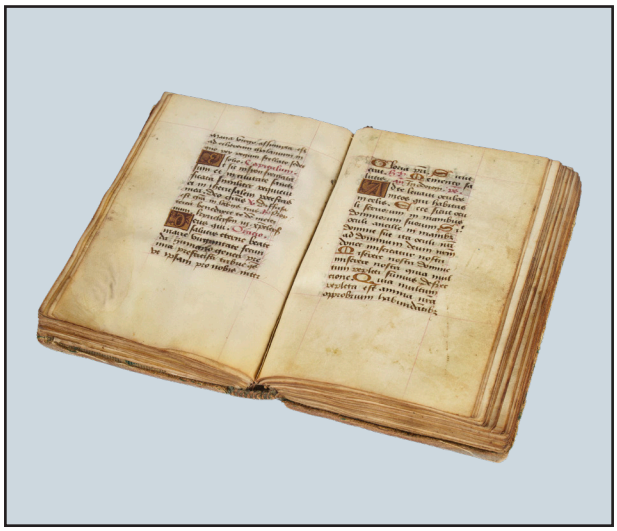
LES ENLUMINURES LTD.
One Magnificent Mile
980 North Michigan Ave. Suite 1330
Chicago IL 60611
Tel: (773) 929 5986
chicago@lesenluminures.com

Illuminating Text Manuscripts: Unexpected Art

This series of e-catalogues highlights select themes suggested by the text manuscripts in our inventory, which are described on our Text Manuscripts site, https://www.text-manuscripts.com/ This series follows our earlier, printed catalogues, Textmanuscripts, nos. 1-7, and Primers, nos. 1-11. These remain available in digital format on our website and in print by order.

Text Manuscripts specializes in manuscripts lacking the miniatures and lush illumination featured in the volumes offered by Les Enluminures. Yet this absence does not mean these manuscripts are dowdy, plain, black and white things. Rather, Text Manuscripts can contain quite a lot of decorative illumination—initials and border art that are not considered "pictures" properly speaking. Even without miniatures, illumination could serve as visual signature in the form of heraldry (cat. nos. 3-5). Indeed, all illuminated initials and borders served a vital, if more utilitarian purpose, and one that miniatures could reinforce, but not replace: guiding the reader (cat. nos. 1-2). Yet, initials and borders could pursue other goals as well, including indicating the erudition and cultural aspirations of the commissioner, if the illumination style selected was one linked with humanism and the burgeoning Renaissance (cat. nos. 6-8). Indeed, medieval illumination continued to be popular for hundreds of years: medieval miniatures were reused in early modern books, and illumination was a popular art in the nineteenth century, when medieval models were refreshed for industrial tastes (cat. nos. 9-11). This e-catalogue invites you all to browse a rich bouquet of illumination offered by our Text Manuscripts.

Guiding the Reader



1. Book of Hours, Use of Bourges

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (Bourges), c. 1470-1480

THE ZODIAC IN CAMEO

DESCRIPTION: *115 parchment folios, missing all the large miniatures, with consequent loss of 18 leaves, 12 SMALL MINIATURES with the signs of the zodiac in camaïeu d'or, thumbing and signs of use on several leaves, particularly the first folios, SIXTEENTH-CENTURY VELVET BINDING embroidered with floral motifs in fragile condition, with losses to the textile cover on spine and front and back boards. Dimensions 134 x 78 mm.*

A tiny Book of Hours bearing all the hallmarks of having once been a remarkably luxurious book, produced at the workshop of Jean Colombe. Although now lacking its large miniatures, gold is used throughout the manuscript, including shining gold initials within the text that replace the more usual red and blue initials, along with numerous delicate initials in "camaïeu d'or," including signs of the zodiac in the calendar. It survives in a precious, although now fragile, example of a sixteenth-century embroidered velvet binding, and includes family records, direct evidence of its early provenance. [TM225BOH]

$21,000 Full description and images available online

---

2. Prayerbook, including Devotional Offices for St. Francis and other saints

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France, Loire Valley (Tours?), c. 1490-1500

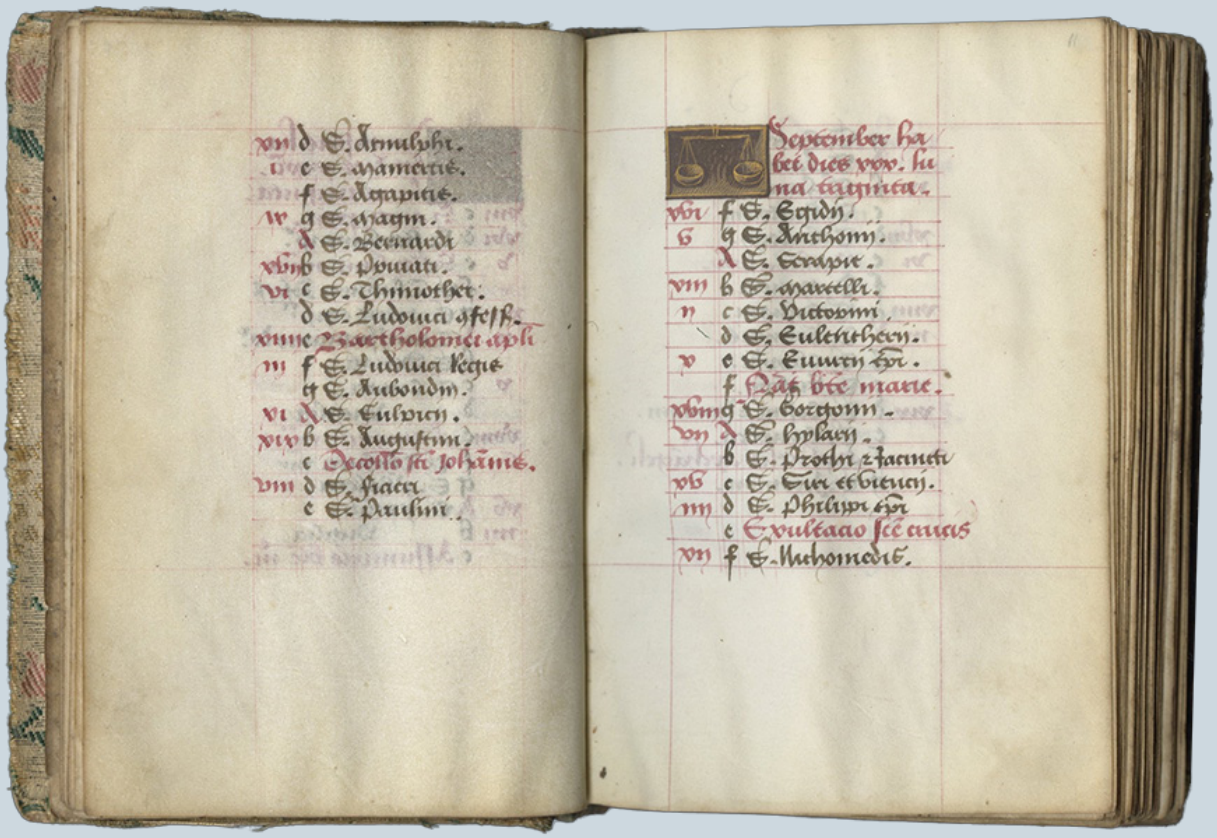
POCKETFUL OF POSIES

DESCRIPTION: *118 parchment folios, lacking leaves and their miniatures of the Virgin, St. Peter, St. Francis, and St. Mary Magdalene, FORTY-FOUR very fine 2-line initials begin prayers throughout, TWO fine 3-line initials painted in two styles, small worm hole on the first two leaves, the decorated border on f. 1 slightly trimmed, minor wear, in overall excellent condition. Bound c. 1800 by P. Noël in red morocco over pasteboards, in overall excellent condition. Dimensions 82 x 50 mm.*

This very pretty, and very tiny, illuminated devotional book is direct evidence of the religious life of a lay woman in France in the late fifteenth century. The texts, including numerous prayers and devotional Offices, are evidence that she had special reverence for the Franciscans, and it is likely that she belonged to the Franciscan Third Order. The coat of arms painted in the full decorated border on the opening page offers an intriguing clue to discovering the origin of this luxurious book and perhaps suggest this was a gift from a suitor to his love. [TM1303]

$33,000 Full description and images available online

THE ZODIAC IN CAMEO



TM225BOH

Book of Hours, Use of Bourges
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (Bourges), c. 1470-1480

POCKETFUL OF POSIES

TM 1303

Prayerbook, including Devotional Offices for
St. Francis and other saints
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France, Loire Valley (Tours?), c. 1490-1500

Heralding the Owner

3. GIROLAMO ALIOTTI, *Gratulatio ad Pium II pro foelici ac secundo ex Mantuana peregrinatione reditu* **(To Pius II, Congratulations on his successful second return from his journey to Mantua);** *Dialogus de optimo vitae genere deligendo* **(Dialogue on choosing the best way of life); and** *De monachis erudiendis* **(On the Education of Monks)**

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

Florence, 1460

THE BOOKSELLER OF FLORENCE

DESCRIPTION: *139 parchment folios, FIVE WHITE-VINESTEM INITIALS 4- to -6-lines, TWO ILLUMINATED COATS OF ARMS, occasional slight staining, wormholes, browning, and cockling, or small repaired tears, else in excellent condition. Early twentieth-century German blind-tooled pigskin binding over wooden boards. Dimensions 253 x 181 mm.*

In all respects, this deluxe illuminated manuscript exemplifies the importance of patronage in Italian Renaissance culture. The author of the texts, Girolamo Aliotti, commissioned it from Vespasiano da Bisticci, the "king of booksellers," for presentation to Pope Pius II. The highest quality parchment was used to show off an elegant humanist script with wide margins and skillful illumination. The celebrated Florentine artist, Filippo di Matteo Torelli, executed the very fine white vinestem initials and the Pope's coats of arms. [TM1352]

$150,000

Full description and images available online

4. HAIMO OF AUXERRE, *Expositio in epistolas Pauli* (Exposition on the Pauline Epistles)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

France, Paris, c. 1460-1480 (before 1481) and c. 1500

WINDOW DRESSING

DESCRIPTION: *193 parchment folios, TEN 5-9 LINE ILLUMINATED INITIALS, ELEVEN 10-LINE ILLUMINATED INITIALS, half-page MINIATURE and FULL ILLUMINATED BORDER, enclosing in bas-de-page the arms of Jean Budé, some slight cockling and a few skilled repairs to tiny holes in the last few leaves, smudging to initial on fol. 60v, a bit of oxidization of silver in initials and coat of arms, else in outstanding condition. Bound in late eighteenth-century straight-grained red morocco, fitted red slipcase with gilt-tooled spine. Dimensions 278 x 193 mm.*

Still in need of a revised critical edition, this manuscript contains a copy of the most notable of the exegetical commentaries by Haimo of Auxerre, a key figure of the Carolingian Renaissance. Beautifully illuminated, the manuscript boasts an illustrious provenance having belonged to, and perhaps even been commissioned by, Jean II Budé, father to the famous humanist-bibliophile Guillaume Budé. The miniature added at a slightly later date (some 20 or 30 years after) must have been painted in Troyes, where the Budé family had strong ties. [TM 908]

$125,000 Full description and images available online

---

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

In French, illuminated manuscript on parchment

France, after 1482, c. 1490

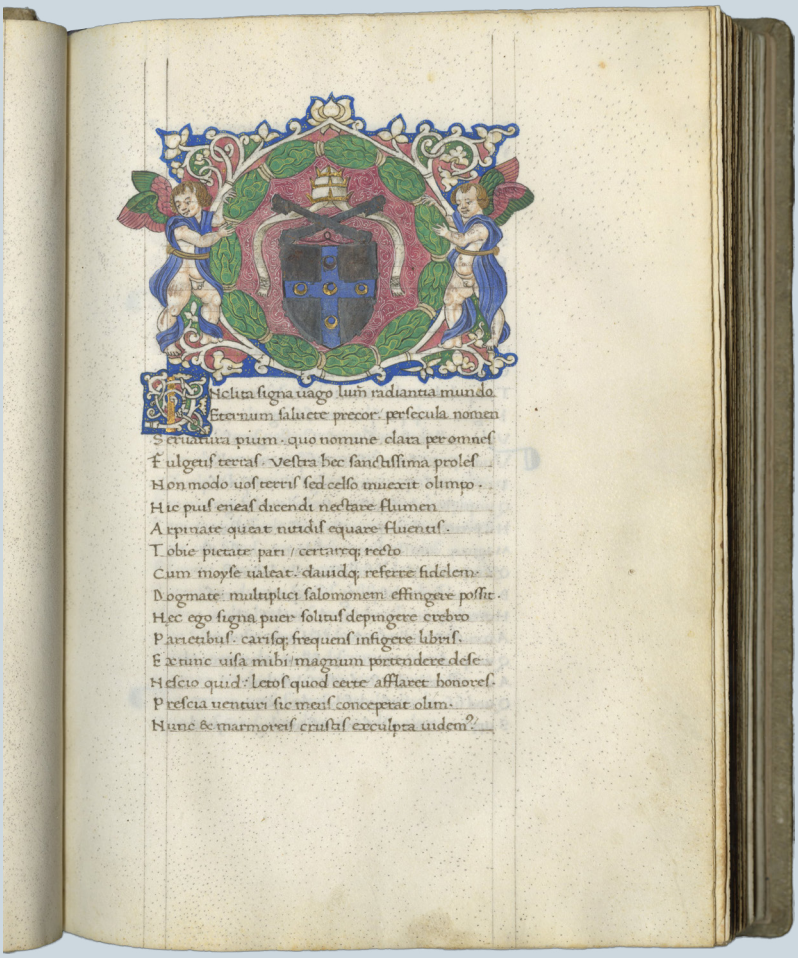
"FROM THE BOOK OF...": AN ABBOT MARKS HIS PLACE

DESCRIPTION: *70 parchment folios, FULL PAGE HERALDIC MINIATURE, slight staining in upper margin and into three lines of text ff. 68-69. Bound in modern nineteenth-century blue velvet over wooden boards, pink paper pastedowns and endleaves, edges gilt. 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 manuscript and is still unedited. There is neither a modern critical edition of the second text, nor a complete census of the existing manuscripts. The copy here was apparently made from an incunable edition of c. 1490. This manuscript begins with a remarkable added full-page illuminated frontispiece with the coat of arms and motto of Louis de Grolée (fl. late fifteenth/early sixteenth century), the abbot of Bonnevaux and Saint-Pierre de Vienne. Louis was the proud owner of exceptional books, including the present offering. [TM 466]

$98,000 Full description and image available online

THE BOOKSELLER OF FLORENCE



TM 1352

GIROLAMO ALIOTTI, *Gratulatio ad Pium II pro foelici ac secundo ex Mantuana peregrinatione reditu* (To Pius II, Congratulations on his successful second return from his journey to Mantua); *Dialogus de optimo vitae genere deligendo* (Dialogue on choosing the best way of life); and *De monachis erudiendis* (On the Education of Monks)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

Florence, 1460

WINDOW DRESSING

TM 908

HAIMO OF AUXERRE, *Expositio in epistolas Pauli* (Exposition on the Pauline Epistles)
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France, Paris, c. 1460-1480 (before 1481) and c. 1500

"FROM THE BOOK OF...": AN ABBOT MARKS HIS PLACE

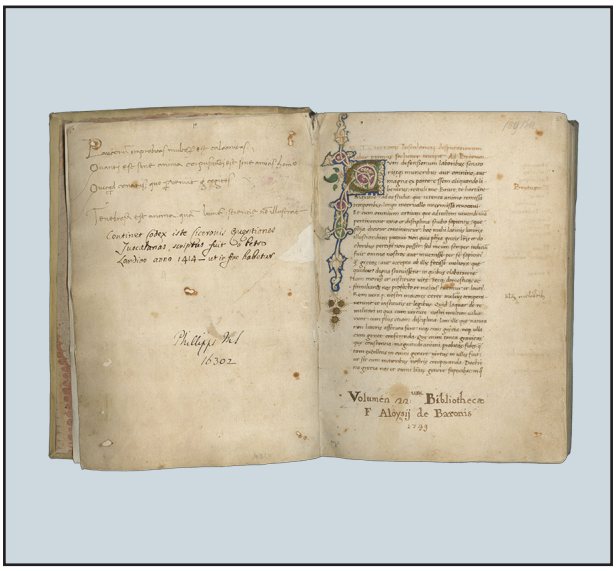
TM 466

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

In French, illuminated manuscript on parchment

France, after 1482, c. 1490

Imagining the Classical Past



6. MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO *Tusculanae disputationes* **(Tusculan Disputations)**
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on paper
Italy, Tuscany (Florence?), 14<6?>4

TWINING SOLACE

DESCRIPTION: *109 paper folios, Italian watermarks, ONE ILLUMINATED WHITE-VINE STEM INITIAL extending into border, some foxing and spotting, a few scattered wormholes, opening leaves darkened, some minor damp-staining, but overall good condition with broad margins. Bound in eighteenth-century vellum over pasteboard, stained and rather dirty, partially split along back hinge with some of the spine missing, gaps at the joints. Dimensions 233 x 168 mm.*

Humanist manuscripts from the Italian Renaissance have been treasured by scholars, readers, and collectors since the fifteenth century. This classical text by Cicero is a good example of why: composed for his own consolation in the wake of the death of his beloved daughter, it is copied in an attractive humanistic script, graced with a lovely white vine-stem initial. Signed and dated by the scribe, this manuscript has been owned by a long series of distinguished collectors, including the famous (or infamous) Guglielmo Libri and Sir Thomas Phillipps. [TM 1299]

$55,000

Full description and images available online

7. PSEUDO-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *Epistola de morte Hieronymi*; PSEUDO-AUGUSTINUS, *Epistola ad Cyrillum de magnificentiis Hieronymi*; PSEUDO-CYRILLUS [Cyril of Jerusalem], *Epistola de miraculis Hieronymi*; PSEUDO-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *Vita Sancti Hieronymi*; HIERONYMUS, *Vita sancti Pauli*

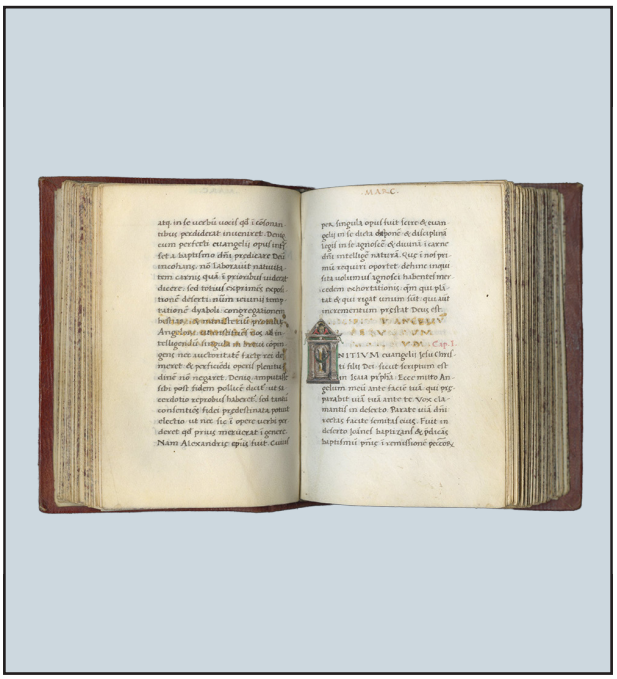
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Northern Italy, c. 1440-70

CLASSICIZING SAINT JEROME

DESCRIPTION: *70 parchment folios, f. 1, HISTORIATED INITIAL of St. Jerome, extending into a FULL WHITE VINESTEM BORDER, erased coat of arms in lower margin, some soiling throughout, but in very good condition overall. Bound in early, almost certainly contemporary, reddish-brown leather over wooden boards, clasp and catch fastening, closing front to back, with brass catch lettered "ave," in sound condition, but spine with vertical crack and slight loss of the leather at the back, top of the spine, and over the lower band. Dimensions 203 x 153 mm.*

The manuscript is a vivid witness to the importance of St. Jerome in fifteenth-century Italy and includes the foundational texts for his cultus. 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 Full description and images available online



8. [Latin Vulgate] Gospels,
with marginal commentary on Matthew chapters 1-9
from THOMAS AQUINAS, *Catena aurea in Matthaeum*
(The Golden Chain on Matthew)
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Italy (Florence?), c. 1475-1500

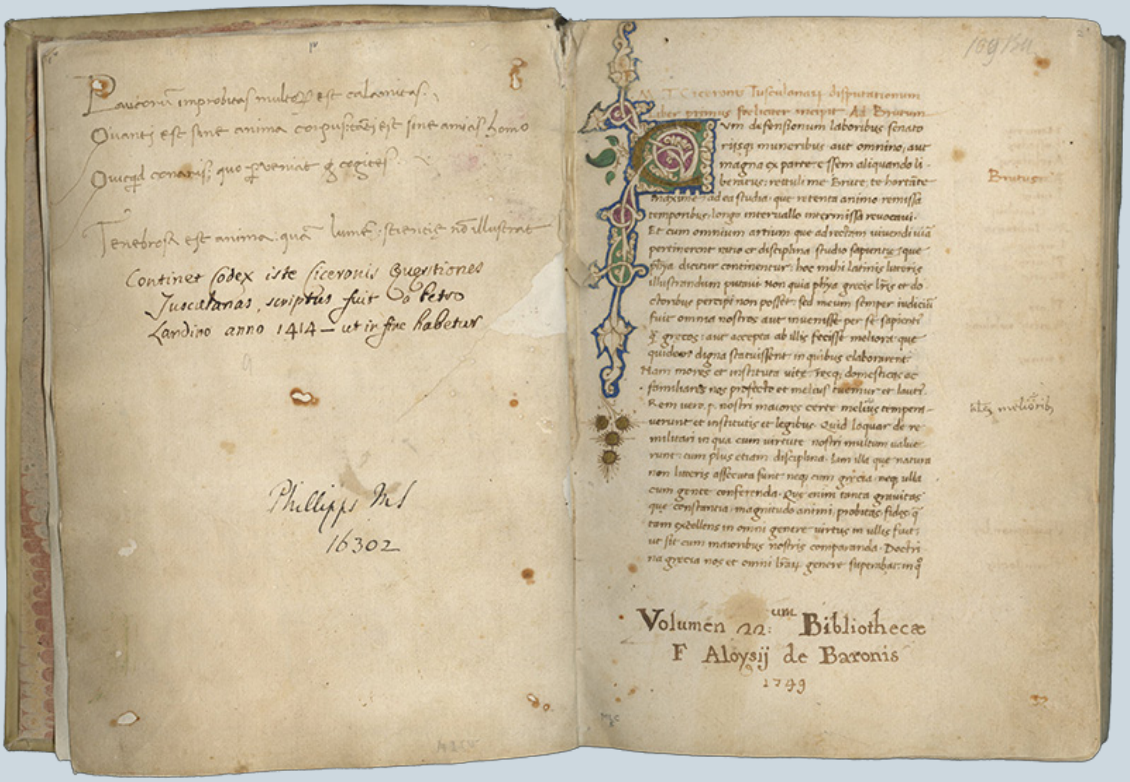
HOUSING THE 'LIVING CREATURES'

DESCRIPTION: *258 thin parchment folios, four very fine HISTORIATED INITIALS OF THE EVANGELISTS, loss of shell-gold on two rubrics, minor water damage in the inner margins of some leaves, minor signs of use, in overall excellent condition. Bound in Paris c. 1800-1828 in red morocco, green cardboard slipcase lined with marbled paper, minor signs of wear on the leather, in overall excellent condition. Dimensions 113 x 77 mm.*

This tiny manuscript (measuring only 4.4 x 3 inches) is as lovely as it is unusual. The four Gospels are transformed in this manuscript into a humanist book for personal use and study. Its beautiful script, sometimes in gold leaf, and lovely and perhaps iconographically unique illuminated initials are noteworthy. [TM 1323]

$50,000 Full description and images available online

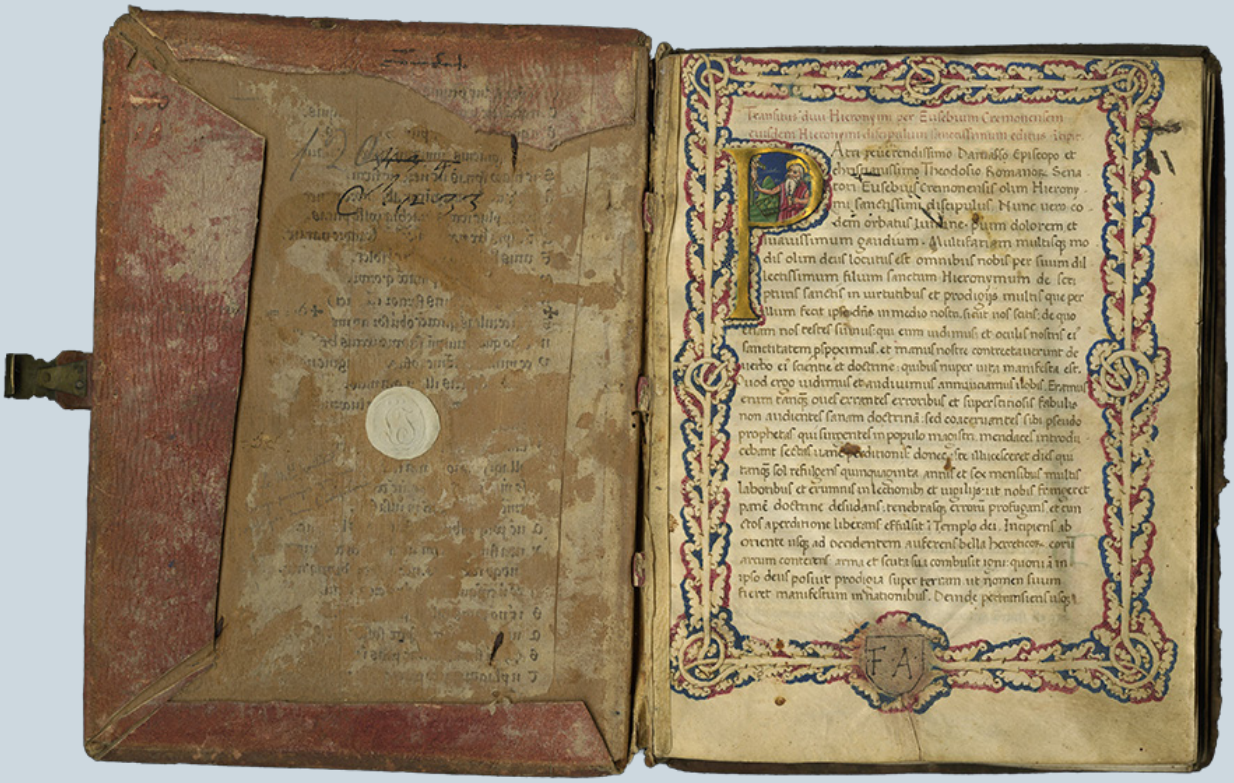
TWINING SOLACE



TM 1299

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO *Tusculanae disputationes* (Tusculan Disputations)
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on paper
Italy, Tuscany (Florence?), 14<6?>4

CLASSICIZING SAINT JEROME



TM 656

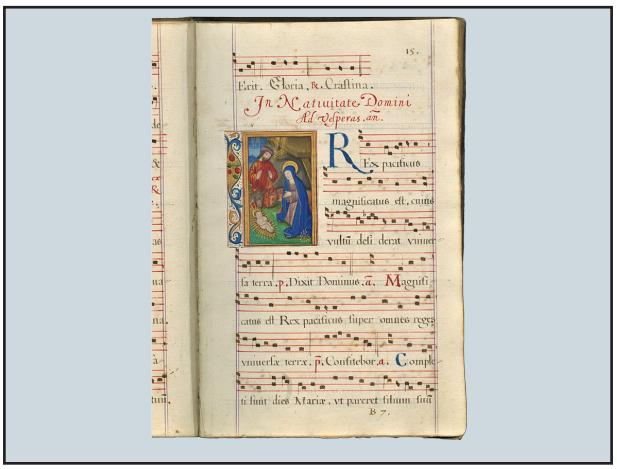
PSEUDO-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *Epistola de morte Hieronymi;*
PSEUDO-AUGUSTINUS, *Epistola ad Cyrillum de magnificentiis Hieronymi;*
PSEUDO-CYRILLUS [Cyril of Jerusalem], *Epistola de miraculis Hieronymi;*
PSEUDO-EUSEBIUS OF CREMONA, *Vita Sancti Hieronymi;*
HIERONYMUS, *Vita sancti Pauli*
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Northern Italy, c. 1440-70

HOUSING THE 'LIVING CREATURES'

TM 1323

[Latin Vulgate] Gospels,
with marginal commentary on Matthew chapters 1-9 from THOMAS AQUINAS, *Catena aurea in Matthaeum*
(The Golden Chain on Matthew)
In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Italy (Florence?), c. 1475-1500

Renewing, Reusing, Recycling Medieval Design



9. Antiphonal (Roman Use)
In Latin, with at least one rubric in French, illuminated manuscript on paper with musical notation and inserted miniatures on parchment
France (Paris), c. 1500-1510 (miniatures);
and France, c. 1570-1600 (after 1568)
One large miniature and 19 smaller miniatures, ten with borders, by the Master of Philippe of Guelders

SPOLIA ON THE PAGE

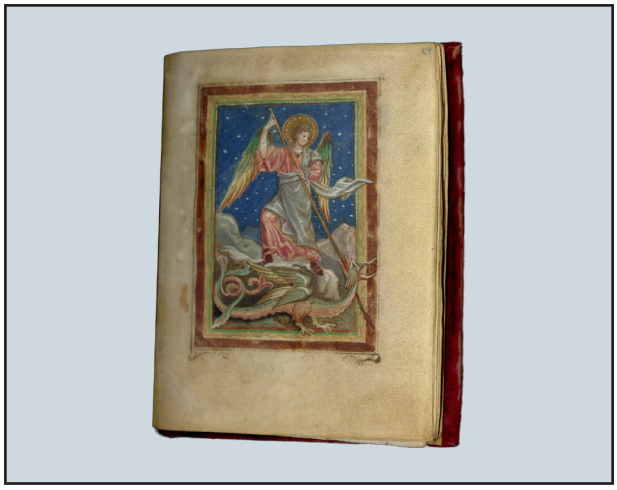
DESCRIPTION: *174 paper folios with French watermarks, numerous red and blue initials and two large shell-gold initials, bordered in red, TWENTY VERY FINE INSERTED MINIATURES REUSED FROM MEDIEVAL MINIATURES AND BORDERS, quire three is loose, outer margin trimmed, some stains and cockling, overall in good condition. ORIGINAL BINDING of olive-green morocco with handsome semé gilding, slightly stained, edges worn, once with two clasps, now removed, housed in modern custom black leather case with title in gilt and date on spine. Dimensions 272 x 180 mm.*

This hybrid manuscript is highly unusual, combining a musical text written in the last quarter of the sixteenth century with reused illuminations from the beginning of the century. Carefully planned from the beginning, the production was always intended to accommodate these illustrations, perhaps from another manuscript owned by the well-to-do patron. We cannot know for sure what the host manuscript was, but the miniatures and decorated borders are securely attributed to the Master of Philippe of Guelders and his workshop. Manuscripts illustrated with miniatures cut from previously made manuscripts are a fascinating little-studied subset of the genre book historians call hybrid manuscripts. [TM 1356]

$60,000 Full description and images available online

10. Franciscan Miscellany: numerous *Exempla* (moral tales) and extracts from JAMES OF MILAN, *Stimulis divini amoris* (The Goad of Divine Love); from PS.-BONAVENTURE (JOHANNIS DE CAULIBUS?), *Meditationes vitae Christi*; and other works

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Italy (Central or Southern), c. 1375-1400,
and 19th-century (four added miniatures)

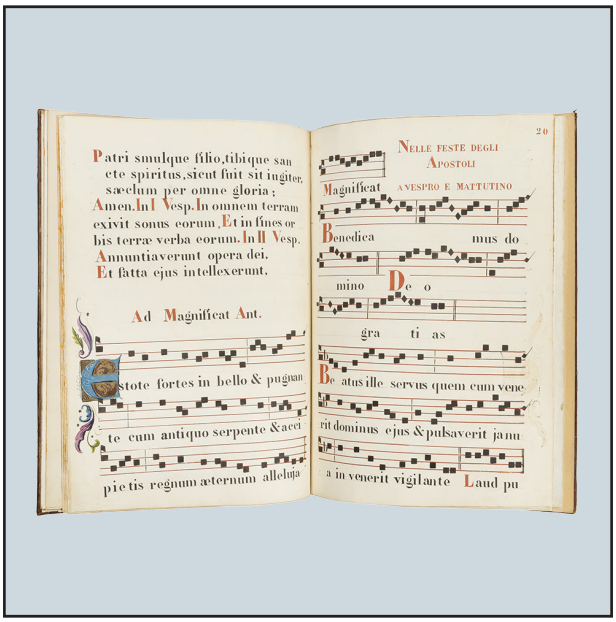


MODERNIZING DEVOTION

DESCRIPTION: *80 parchment folios, FOUR FULL-PAGE MINIATURES ADDED IN NINETEENTH CENTURY, some marginal staining and cockling, modern (19th century?) red velvet binding, somewhat worn at the edges and on the spine, but in good overall condition. Dimensions 135 x 102 mm.*

In modern times someone redesigned this pocket-sized miscellany adding four full-page miniatures and rebinding it. Originally the small volume must have been made by Franciscans, who compiled an impressive number of texts for use when preaching and for spiritual edification. This is a perfect book for scholarly sleuthing with its engaging contents and its quirky miniatures (from a yet-unidentified source), paired with the challenge of putting it back together in the correct order. [TM 1288]

$24,000 Full description and images available online



11. Choir Book with Selected Texts for the Mass and Office

In Latin with some Italian, illuminated stenciled book on paper with musical notation
Italy, late 18th-19th century(?)

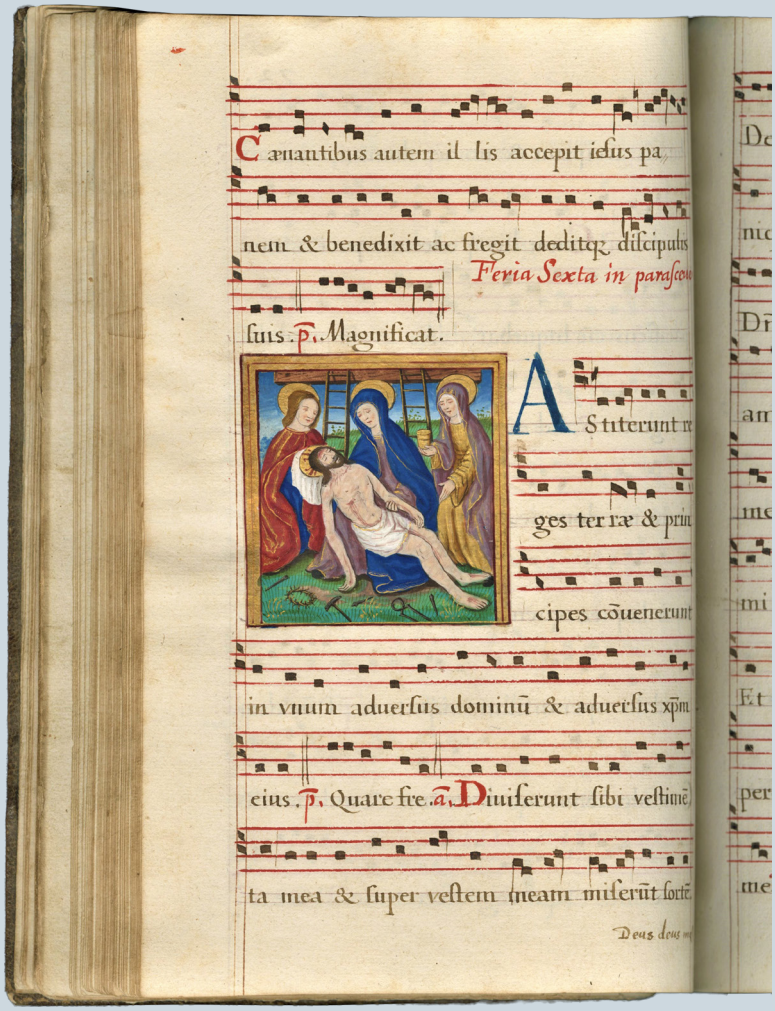
MANU-FACUTURING A CHOIR BOOK

DESCRIPTION: *23 thick paper folios, Italian watermark, produced with stencils except for two blue initials on gold grounds and FIVE LARGE ILLUMINATED INITIALS in a medieval style, a few stains but in excellent condition. Eighteenth-century binding of gold-tooled leather with an ecclesiastical coat of arms, front hinge broken, somewhat rubbed, otherwise good condition. Dimensions 460 x 320 mm.*

Books with text made by using stencils occupy an interesting, and relatively unstudied, mid-ground between manuscripts and printing with movable type. This is a particularly lavish example, adorned with illuminated initials, painted by hand. Further research is needed to closely date this volume, which is bound in an eighteenth-century gold-tooled armorial binding (either original with the book, or perhaps re-used for this special volume). Its contents include the Mass and Office of St. Joseph Calasanctius the founder of the Piarist Order, who was canonized in 1767. [TM 994]

$15,000 Full description and images avaialble online

SPOLIA ON THE PAGE



TM 1356

Antiphonal (Roman Use)
In Latin, with at least one rubric in French, illuminated manuscript on paper with musical notation and inserted miniatures on parchment
France (Paris), c. 1500-1510 (miniatures);
and France, c. 1570-1600 (after 1568)
One large miniature and 19 smaller miniatures, ten with borders, by the Master of Philippe of Guelders

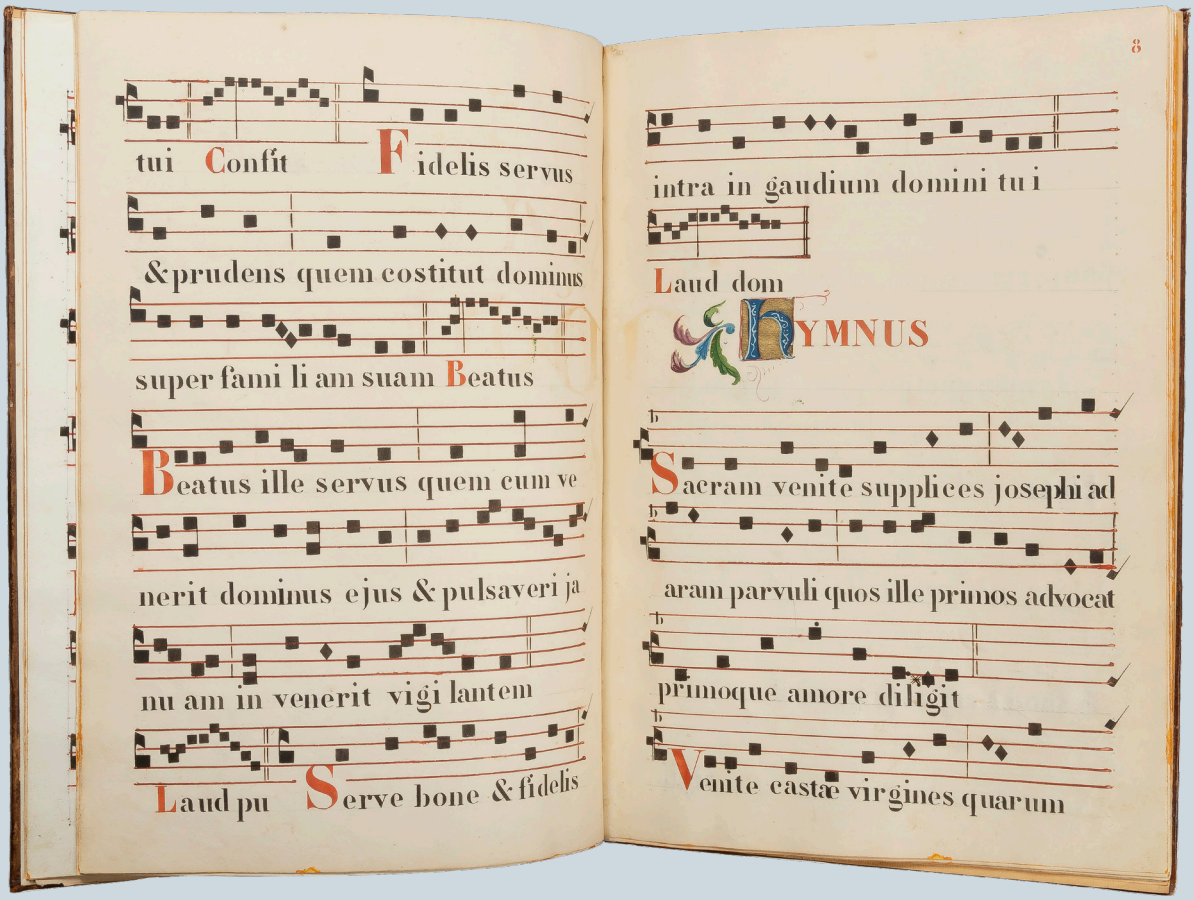
MODERNIZING DEVOTION

TM 1288

Franciscan Miscellany: numerous Exempla (moral tales) and extracts from JAMES OF MILAN, *Stimulis divini amoris* (The Goad of Divine Love); from PS.-BONAVENTURE (JOHANNIS DE CAULIBUS?), *Meditationes vitae Christi*; and other works

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment
Italy (Central or Southern), c. 1375-1400,
and 19th-century (four added miniatures)

MANU-FACUTURING A CHOIR BOOK



TM 994

Choir Book with Selected Texts for the Mass and Office
In Latin with some Italian, illuminated stenciled book on paper with musical notation
Italy, late 18th-19th century(?)