

TEXT MANUSCRIPTS

LES ENLUMINURES



Les Enluminures is pleased to announce an innovative new program

MANUSCRIPTS IN THE CURRICULUM

We believe strongly that for anyone studying the Middle Ages, there is no substitute for hands-on experience of actual medieval manuscripts. Pondering this, an entirely new idea was born. Manuscripts in the Curriculum will enable colleges, universities, and other educational institutions in North America to borrow a select group of original manuscripts for exhibition and classroom use during a segment of the academic year (semester, quarter, or summer session). Public display of the manuscripts is encouraged, but central to the philosophy of the new program is the integration of real manuscripts into the curriculum in courses where students can work closely with original material under the guidance of a professor.

At the heart of this program are the twenty-one manuscripts. They are a deliberately diverse group, with examples from a very wide time span from the thirteenth century onwards, in many languages, including Latin and vernacular languages; non-Western European cultures are represented by manuscripts from Greece and Ethiopia. The subjects are equally diverse, and include (to name a few examples) liturgy, lives

of saints, canon law, school books, and humanism. We look forward to hearing how these are used (perhaps in courses on the history of the book, medieval manuscript production in Western Europe, textual transmission, as well as general courses on the history and literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance).

The pilot program runs for three years, starting in January 2017. There are three loan periods annually. There is a nominal cost only to contribute towards the out-of-pocket expenses of the program. One of the international specialists of Les Enluminures (Drs. Christopher de Hamel, Sandra Hindman, Laura Light, or Emily Runde) will visit the campus during the loan period to deliver either a public lecture or an in-depth seminar (or both) of the choosing of the institution. Participating institutions include the University of Victoria in Canada, the University of South Carolina, the University of Vermont, Pepperdine University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the University of Rochester ... among others.

For further information, please contact:

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www.textmanuscripts.com

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“ For students interested in the Middle Ages, or the early modern world in general, learning to work with primary sources is not only inspiring but is a requisite skill set. This can be a particular challenge for students in North America; while hundreds of institutions in the United States and Canada house collections of pre-1600 European manuscripts, hundreds more do not. For those collections unable to offer their students the opportunity to work with primary source material, Manuscripts in the Curriculum offers an incomparable opportunity. Through a temporary loan accompanied by a custom-designed curriculum and guest lectures, teachers and students will be able to encounter, learn from, and be inspired by rare material otherwise unavailable to them.”

Lisa Fagin Davis

Executive Director, The Medieval Academy of America



“ There is no substitute for learning directly from original objects, and putting illuminated manuscripts directly into the curriculum of university and college courses will surely ignite the imagination of students. This program, which grows out of a conviction that direct encounters with the art of the past can generate transformative experiences, promises to enrich students' appreciation of the medieval past.”

C. Griffith Mann

Michel David-Weill Curator in Charge, Medieval Art and the Cloisters, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

“ When I was an undergraduate, I spent a year studying manuscripts and rare books with James Tanis, the director of libraries at Bryn Mawr College. We met in his office at Canaday Library, and every week he had a book truck full of manuscripts and books to share. Mix teachers, students, and manuscripts, and there is a possibility of an almost alchemical transformation; one that Manuscripts in the Curriculum is designed to make possible again and again.”

Laura Light

Director and Senior Specialist, Text Manuscripts, Les Enluminures





“ I’m both an academic and an art dealer, and this new program represents perfectly the two hats I wear. It showcases my deep-seated commitment to the use of real objects throughout my long teaching career and in all my research. My present career as a dealer of medieval manuscripts makes it possible for me now to try to give back to others the opportunity I once had.”

Sandra Hindman

Founder and President Les Enluminures

Professor Emerita of Art History Northwestern University

“ Manuscripts in the Curriculum is a magnificent idea. I wish I had thought of it myself. It brings real medieval manuscripts face-to-face with students who might never otherwise have experienced such things.”

Christopher de Hamel

Donnelley Fellow Librarian, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Senior Vice-President, Les Enluminures

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