

LES ENLUMINURES

e-Catalogue One

Exploring Text Manuscripts

WOMEN
AND
THE BOOK



TEXTMANUSCRIPTS

LES ENLUMINURES

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WOMEN AND THE BOOK

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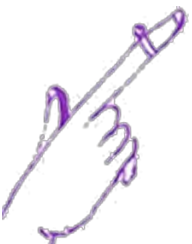
Exploring Text Manuscripts

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 topics include “The Ancients” and “Excuse my French” (on manuscripts in the French language).

“Women and the Book”

Half a century ago, women were mostly absent from history books. However, over the past decades, an explosion of research has reintegrated the voices of women in the history of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Manuscripts made and/or owned by women offer one of the best and most vivid resources for telling the stories of these women, secular and religious, young and old, high-born and common. Seven of the manuscripts in our new list were owned by, and often made by, nuns. The lives of secular women are revealed in three special manuscripts, an illuminated manuscript owned by a well-born Renaissance woman in France, one including a text (by a man) discussing women and fashion in Renaissance Florence, and an intriguing liturgical manuscript that also includes cosmetic recipes. For the classroom and the collector, these manuscripts bring to life the roles women played in society – as readers, scribes, agents, artists – and often give voice to their emotions, thoughts, fears, and desires.

Sandra Hindman and Laura Light



1.

Psalter (Premonstratensian use)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment, with (added) musical notation

Northwestern Germany (diocese of Cologne),

c. 1270-1280

EARLY, DIMINUTIVE, ILLUMINATED, USED BY NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 270 folios on parchment, complete, occasional flaking of the initials, overall excellent condition, bound in 16th-century blind-tooled calf. Dimensions 103 x 75 mm .

Charming example of an illuminated liturgical Psalter, certainly owned by women in the seventeenth century, and perhaps made for Premonstratensian nuns. This small volume, still in a fine early binding, includes an initial of David playing his harp painted in an elegant style close to that of the Cologne illuminator Johannes von Valkenburg, known for two Graduals completed in 1299. It includes musical notation added in the fourteenth century in the characteristically German Hufnagelschrift and bears a distinguished modern provenance. [TM 1020]

\$48,000



Full description, images and video available online

2.

Processional (Dominican Use)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment with musical notation

France (Poissy), c. 1330-1350; additions c. 1500-1520(?)

TWO IN ONE: FOR AND BY NUNS, FROM TWO DIFFERENT CENTURIES

DESCRIPTION: 66 folios on parchment, missing leaves following f. 40, twenty illuminated initials, slightly trimmed but very good condition, bound in 18th-century gold-tooled leather. Dimensions 150 x 95 mm.

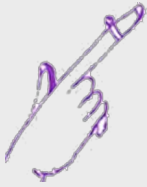
Many Processionals were made for the use of nuns. Those from the convent of St.-Louis at Poissy, home to sisters of royalty and the author Christine de Pizan, are among the best known. This example is fascinating. It joins part of an early manuscript from Poissy (only seven other Poissy Processionals pre-date 1400) with a sixteenth-century section likely undertaken by a nun at Poissy. The female scribe-illuminator imitated the style of early Poissy Processionals, paying conscious tribute to the past of the convent, an act that brings to life the creative process that inspired this woman. [TM 1084]

\$44,000



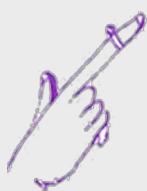
Full description images and video available online

EARLY, DIMINUTIVE, ILLUMINATED, USED BY NUNS



[1. ~ TM 1020]

Full description, images and video available online



TWO IN ONE:
FOR AND BY NUNS FROM TWO DIFFERENT CENTURIES



[2. ~ TM 1084]

Full description, images and video available online

3.

Augustinian Missal (use of Rome)

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment with musical notation

Northern Italy (Lombardy?), c. 1450-1470

INTERESTING FORMAT (SMALL FOR A MISSAL), USED BY FRANCISCAN NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 271 folios, lacking one folio (*Crucifixion miniature*), some stains and dampstaining, but in good condition, modern quarter calf and marbled paper, front hinge broken. Dimensions 158 x 115 mm.

Missals are relatively rare survivals, since they were often used until they fell apart. This is an excellent example of an important sub-genre, the portable mendicant Missal. Made for the use of an Augustinian friar or nun, the manuscript was used by Franciscan nuns near Milan by the end of the fifteenth century, demonstrating how easily an Augustinian liturgical book lent itself for a new life within the Franciscan order. Carefully copied, this small but substantial volume includes twenty pages with musical notation, a noteworthy feature. [TM 1101]

\$25,000



Full description and images available online

4.

Psalter with antiphons set to music (Dominican use)

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment with musical notation

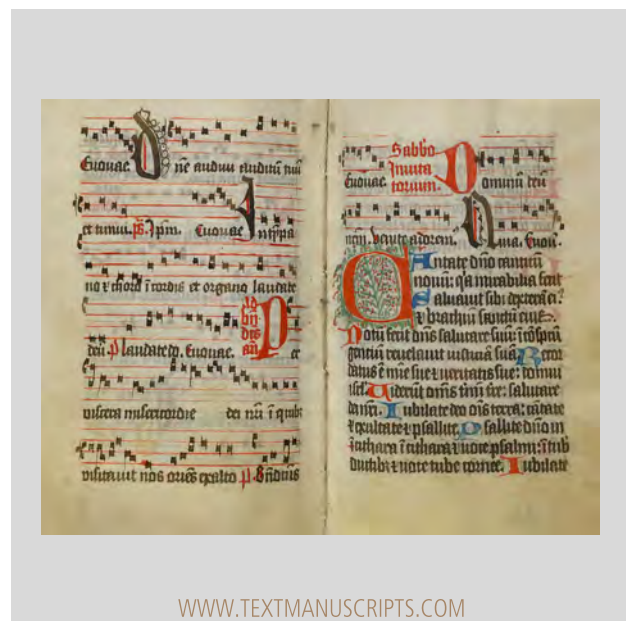
Switzerland (Kloster Töss?), c. 1455-1461

MYSTICS AND SAINTS: SWISS DOMINICAN NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 156 folios, lacking 18 leaves, cadel and attractive penwork initials, water damage first four leaves, some ink fading (text still mostly legible), otherwise very good condition, 19th-century vellum binding. Dimensions 138 x 98 mm.

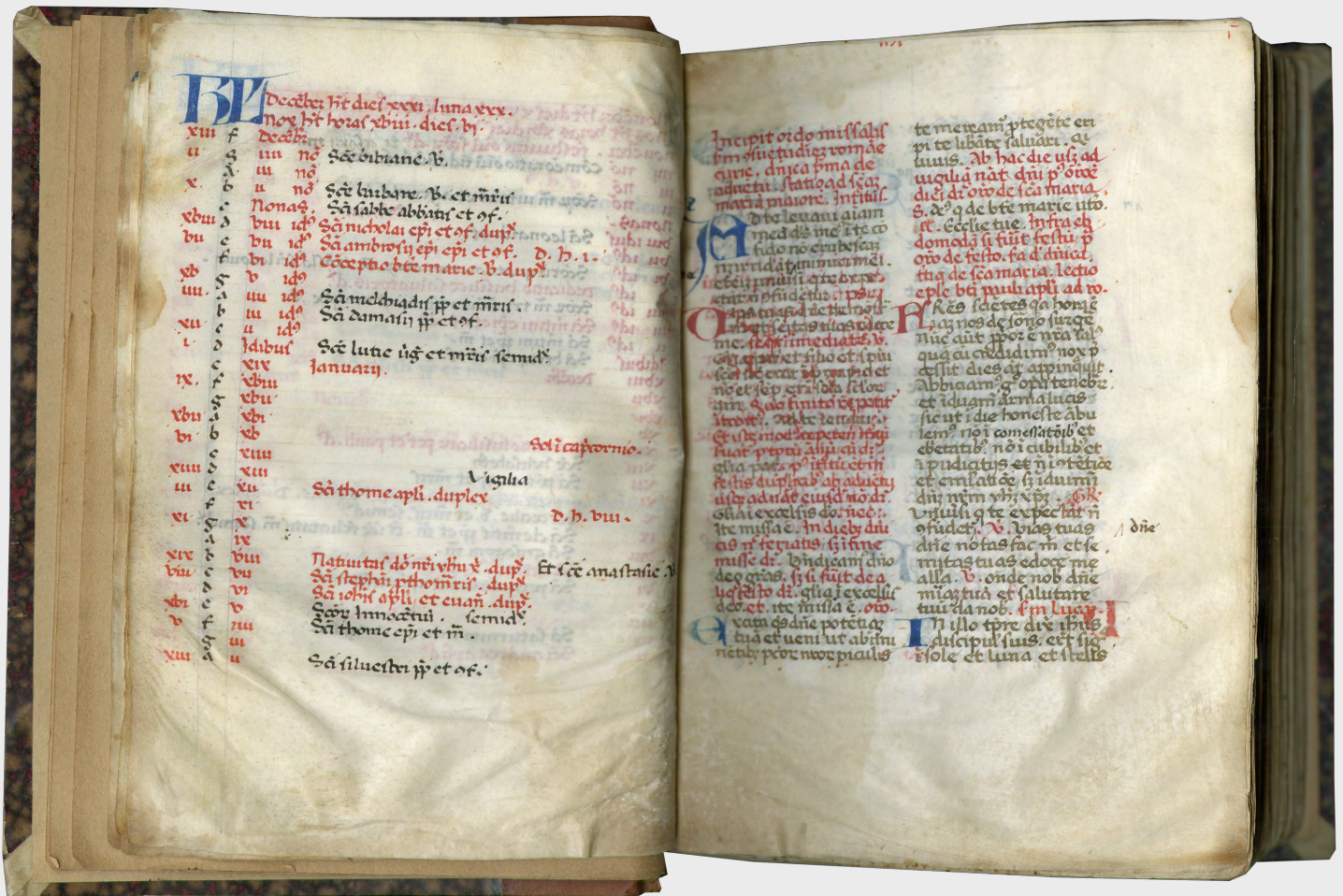
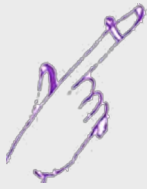
A small handheld Psalter with musical notation and elaborate cadel initials that introduce the antiphons preceding the psalms. Certainly for Dominican use, it was likely made by and for Dominican nuns, possibly at the convent of Töss in Switzerland. The convent was founded in the thirteenth century and is famous for the sister-book (*Schwesternbuch*) by Elsbeth Stagel, chronicling the spiritual lives of the nuns who lived there. This is an attractive Psalter, with an unusually interesting medieval and modern provenance. [TM 1065]

\$20,000



Full description and images available online

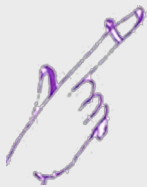
INTERESTING FORMAT (SMALL FOR A MISSAL), USED BY FRANCISCAN NUNS



[3. ~ TM 1101]

Full description and images available online

MYSTICS AND SAINTS: SWISS DOMINICAN NUNS



[4. ~ TM 1065]

Full description and images available online

5.

Franciscan Breviary (use of Rome)

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment

Central Italy, Umbria (Perugia), c. 1456-1470

PARADOX – “PORTABLE” BREVIARY FOR CLOISTERED FRANCISCAN NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 540 folios on parchment, lacking a quire of 10 leaves, penwork initials, some small stains and signs of wear, otherwise very good condition, 15th- or 16th-century blind-tooled calf binding, modern repairs. Dimensions 106 x 82 mm. (text block c. 70 mm. thick).

In its early binding and very small, but very thick (almost as thick as it is wide), this attractive Umbrian Breviary was copied in a tiny script by a skilled scribe. Although modern historians often think of this type of portable volume as answering the needs of travelling mendicant Friars, this Breviary was owned by a Franciscan nun. An early note identifies her by name: Sister Scholastica. Certainly made for use in the diocese of Perugia, it is possible it was made for the nuns of the prestigious Convent of Sant’Antonio of Padua. [TM 1057]

\$22,000



Full description and images available online

6.

ST. ANTONINUS OF FLORENCE (ANTONIO PIEROZZI).

Confessionale, De ornatu mulierum, extract [On the ornament of women], and other texts

In Latin and Italian, decorated manuscript on paper.

Northern Italy (Florence, Milan?), dated 14[6]2

FASHION AND CONFESSION IN FLORENCE

DESCRIPTION: 112 folios on paper, complete, penwork initial, some leaves darkened, stains, but good condition, limp vellum binding reusing a 15th-century Choir book leaf. Dimensions 165 x 120 mm.

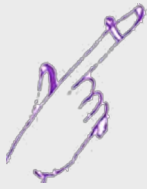
This pocket handbook of confession contains texts to assist the confessor in his practical and daily tasks, notably the popular manual for confessors named *Confessionale-Defecerunt*. The additional texts that complete the *Confessionale* are also of special interest, including an extract on women’s dress codes and an added model of confession in Italian. If the date of 1462 given in two colophons is correct, the present manuscript was assembled only a few years after the death of the author, St. Antoninus of Florence. [TM 498]

\$21,000



Full description and images available online

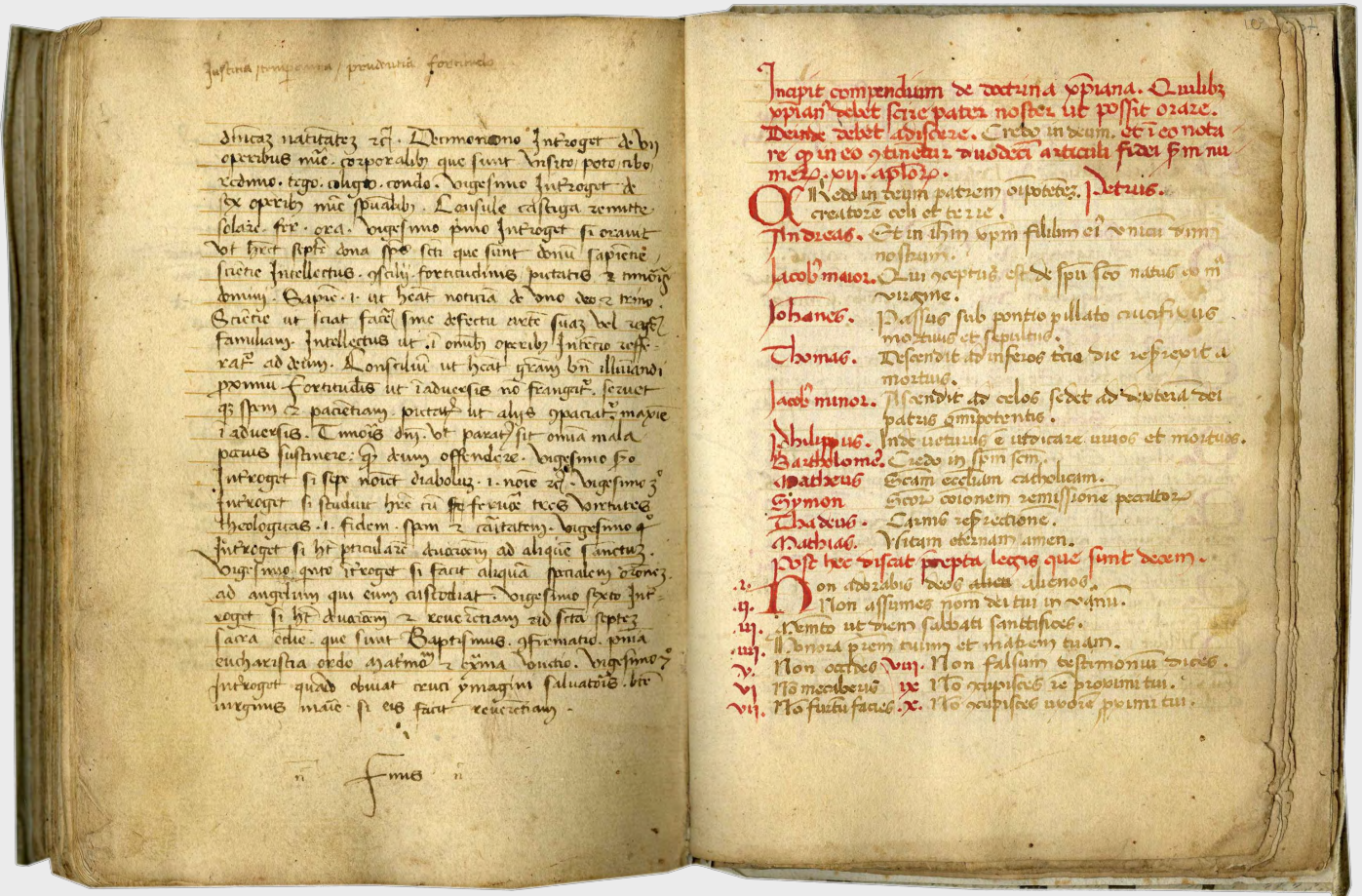
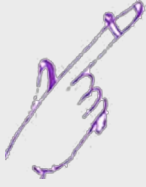
PARADOX – “PORTABLE” BRIEVIARY FOR CLOISTERED FRANCISCAN NUNS



[5. ~ TM 1057]

Full description and images available online

FASHION AND CONFESSION IN FLORENCE



Justina p[ro]p[ri]a / p[ro]vid[en]tia forensis

divina naturae et. Demoneo Interrogat de vi
operibus me. corporali que sunt. Interrogat de
vicio. ego. alio. conde. vigesimo Interrogat de
de operibus me. spiritalibus. Consule castiga remitte
solae. fir. ora. vigesimo primo Interrogat si oravit
ut fiat sp[irit]u dona sp[irit]u scilicet que sunt donu[m] sapientie
suerie intellectus. glori[ae] foreaudinis putatis et immo[n]is
domini. Sup[er] i. ut heat notitia de dono deo et tempo
Sacerie ut fiat facti sine defectu vite suaz vel regni
famulari. Intellectus ut i omni operibus Interrogat resp[on]s
rae ad deum. Consilium ut heat gratia in illu[m]i[n]andi
proximu forendis ut i aduersis no feangit. seruet
q[ui] sp[irit]u et pacetiam p[ro]p[ri]a ut alijs opacat maxie
i aduersis. Timoris domini. ut parat sit omnia mala
paruis sustinere. q[ui] dum offendere. vigesimo fo
Interrogat si sp[irit]u noit diaboluz. i. noie et. vigesimo
Interrogat si studiat h[ab]ere in se fructus tres virtutes
theologicas. i. fidem sp[irit]u et caritatem. vigesimo q
Interrogat si h[ab]et p[ro]viden[ti]a ducem ad aliquas sanctas.
vigesimo quo Interrogat si facit aliqua penitentia oratione
ad angelum qui eum assistat. vigesimo sexto Inter
rogat si h[ab]et ducem et reuectam ad sua septem
sara edie que sunt Baptismus. confirmatio. p[ri]ma
eucharistia ordo. m[ar]t[ir]io. et v[er]ba. vigesimo
Interrogat quid obuat cu[m] v[er]ba saluatis. h[ab]et
virginis marie si eis facit reuectam.

fms

Incapit compendium de doctrina v[er]iana. Quilibet
v[er]ianus debet scire patra nostra ut possit orare.
Deinde debet adyficare. Credo in deum. et i eo nota
re q[uod] in eo g[er]it[ur] iudicia articuli fidei s[ecundu]m nu
mero. vii. ap[osto]lo.

Quod in deum patrem omnipotentem. **P**atrem.
creatorem celi et terre.
In deum. Et in ih[esu]m v[er]um filium et v[er]u[m] v[er]um
nostrum.
Jacob maior. Qui conceptus est de spu sc[er]o natus ex m[ar]i
virgine.
Johannes. Passus sub pontio pillato crucifixus
morsuus et sepultus.
Thomas. Descendit ad inferos t[er]cia die resurrexit a
mortuis.
Jacob minor. Ascendit ad celos sedet ad dextera dei
patris omnipotentis.
Philippus. Inde uenturus e iudicare uiuos et mortuos.
Bartholomeus. Credo in sp[irit]u sc[er]o.
Matheus. Eum eccl[esi]am catholicam.
Simon. Scilicet colionem remissione peccatorum.
Thaddeus. Carmis refectione.
Nathanael. Vitam eternam amen.
Post hec dicit precepta leg[is] que sunt decem.
i. Non adorabis deos alios alienos.
ii. Non assumes nom[en] dei tui in v[er]bu[m].
iii. Memto ut diens sabbati sanctifices.
iiii. Honora prem tuum et matrem tuam.
v. Non occides vium. Non falsum testimoniu[m] dices.
vi. No meberis. vii. No concupiscas re proximi tui.
viii. No concupiscas uocis proximi tui.
ix. No falsu[m] facias. x. No concupiscas uocis proximi tui.

[6. ~ TM 498]

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

ILLUMINATION, FEMALE OWNERSHIP, ORIGINAL VELVET BINDING

DESCRIPTION: 63 folios on parchment, complete, full-page miniature, very good condition, contemporary velvet binding, covers worn, hinges fragile. Dimensions 210 x 135 mm.

In its original purple velvet binding and adorned with a frontispiece painted by the Master of Spencer 6, this deluxe, carefully fashioned manuscript presents a unique copy of a French translation by a hitherto unknown translator of Saint Jerome's letter to the widow Furia. 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 of some thirty-six manuscripts, most in the vernacular, raising questions pertaining to female book ownership and literary and artistic patronage in the first decades of the sixteenth century, and the nature of the reading experiences of French Renaissance women. [TM 935]

\$160,000



Full description, images and video available online

8.

Noted Breviary for select feasts; short Mass texts in German; recipes (medicinal and cosmetic)

In Latin and German, illuminated manuscript on paper with musical notation

Southern or Central Germany, c. 1515-1525

INTRIGUING PARTNERS: LITURGY AND MEDICAL AND COSMETIC RECIPES

DESCRIPTION: 114 folios on paper, complete, illuminated initials, minor stains and smudging, otherwise very good condition, contemporary blind-tooled pigskin binding. Dimensions 200 x 140 mm.

This handsome manuscript, a perfect size for teaching, features distinctive German musical notation known as Hufnagel

("horseshoe nail"), accomplished illuminated initials in gold leaf, and a fine contemporary blind-tooled binding. Alongside the Latin liturgical texts are texts for the Mass and recipes for make-up in German, opening the possibility of female ownership. An intriguing witness to the religious life in Germany during the early decades of the Reformation, the volume underlines the continuation of medieval traditions of bookmaking well into the age of print.

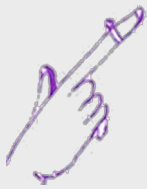
[TM 947]

\$45,000



Full description and images available online

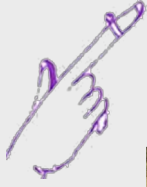
ILLUMINATION, FEMALE OWNERSHIP, ORIGINAL
VELVET BINDING



[7. ~ TM 935]

Full description, images and video available online

INTRIGUING PARTNERS: LITURGY AND MEDICAL
AND COSMETIC RECIPES



[8. ~ TM 947]

Full description and images available online

9.

Prayer Book including *Andächtiges Myrrhenbüschelein* (Devout Bundle of Myrrh) and prayers by JOHANNES VON INDERSDORF and JOHANN VON NEUMARKT

In German, manuscript on paper
Swabia, Germany, c. 1520-c. 1550

TINY, VERY PERSONAL, MADE BY AND FOR NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 287 folios on paper, complete, penwork initials, good condition, early (original?) blind-tooled leather binding. Dimensions 110 x 85 mm.

This small volume is the personal Prayer Book of an individual nun, a member of a convent in eastern Swabia and shows evidence of intensive reading by the nun at prayer. The prayers, one large sequence of which focuses on preparation for eucharistic reception, are accompanied by an extensive narrative of Christ's Passion (The Devout Bundle of Myrrh) that awaits scholarly investigation (known in only six other manuscripts). [TM 893]

\$28,000



Full description, images and video available online

10.

Processional (Dominican use)

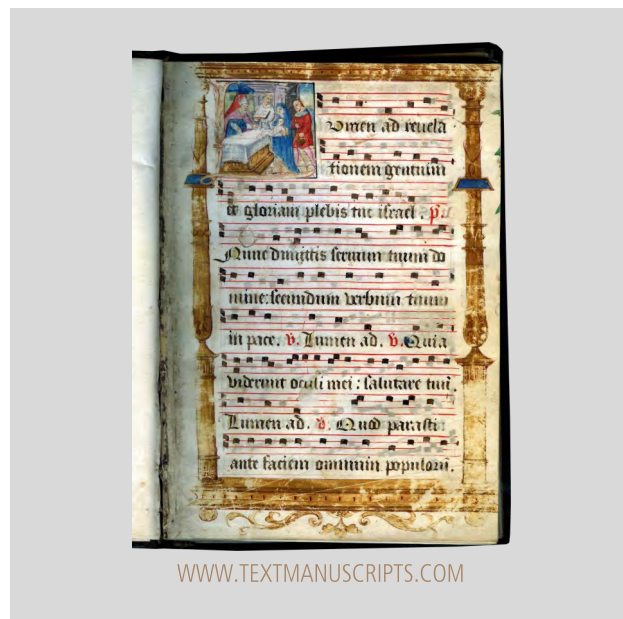
In Latin and French, illuminated manuscript on parchment
France (Rouen), c. 1520-1530; c. 1525-1550; 1674

LARGE, LUXURIOUS, PROFESSIONALLY ILLUMINATED,
ACTIVE USE AND ADAPTATION BY DOMINICAN NUNS

DESCRIPTION: 67 folios on parchment, complete, twelve large historiated initials and two full-page illuminated borders, borders slightly trimmed and rubbed, historiated initials rubbed, 16th- or 17th-century blind- and gold-tooled leather binding, rebacked with the spine laid down. Dimensions 225 x 158 mm.

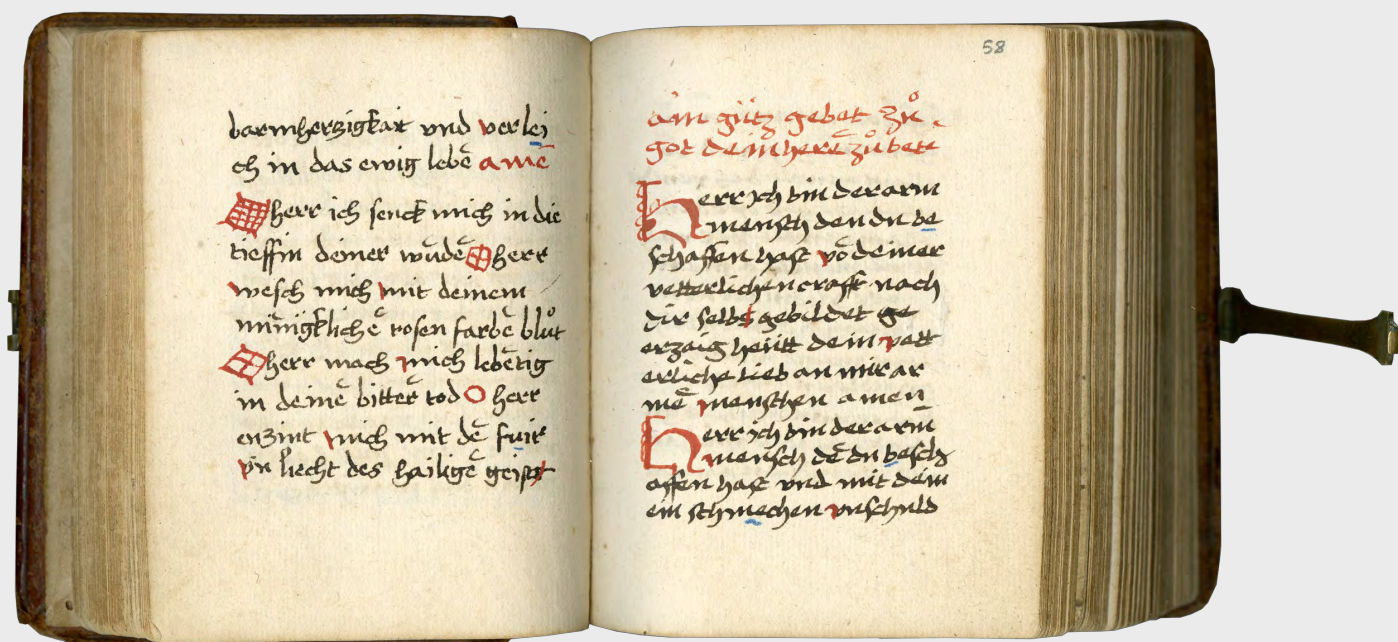
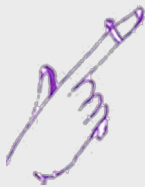
Made for the Dominican nuns of the royal convent of St. Matthew in Rouen, this Processional is a fine example of the skill of the artists working during the last flowering of medieval manuscript illumination in northern France. Larger and certainly more lavishly illuminated than most surviving Processionals,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

\$75,000



Full description, images and video available online

TINY, VERY PERSONAL, MADE BY AND FOR NUNS



baemferrigheit und verles
es in das ewig lebē **ame**
Herre ich senck mich in die
tieffin deiner wüde **H**erre
weß mich mit deinem
müßigheitē rosen farbe blut
Herre mach mich lebendig
in deine bitter tod **O** herre
erzint mich mit de fure
in hecht des heilige geist

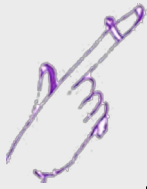
am gütz gebat **z**
got dem heil zu bet

58
Herre ich bin daz arm
müßigheitē dan du be
schaffen hast vō dem
verwelichet vō dem
die selbs gebildet ge
szug heilt dein vatt
wüßigheit an mich ar
me **man**chen **amen**
Herre ich bin daz arm
müßigheitē de du bafel
offen hast und mit dem
im schmechen **w**eiß

[9. ~ TM 893]

Full description, images and video available online

LARGE, LUXURIOUS, PROFESSIONALLY ILLUMINATED,
ACTIVE USE AND ADAPTATION BY DOMINICAN NUNS



[10. ~ TM 1031]

Full description, images and video available online

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