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e-Catalogue Seven
Exploring Text Manuscripts



TEXTMANUSCRIPTS

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COVER TO COVER

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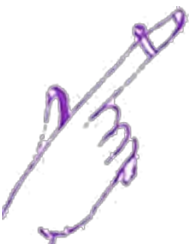
This new series of e-Catalogues focuses on select themes of text manuscripts available in our inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com. We begin with "Women and the Book" a topic of considerable interest and well represented among our holdings. These catalogues follow two earlier series of text manuscript 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 "Imagining the Past," "Medieval Bestsellers," and "Manuscripts for the Classroom."

Cover to Cover

Everyone knows the saying, "You can't tell a book by its cover." It is often true, but **not in the case of the ten manuscripts included in this list.** All the manuscripts here, which date from the thirteenth through the early sixteenth century, survive in a medieval binding; seven of them in fact are still in their original (or closely contemporary) bindings, and their covers tell us a lot. The chained binding, for example, is evidence of use in a community's reference library (rattle the chain and imagine the sounds of that reading room). A flexible parchment cover was perfect for a practical manual that was folded in half to fit in someone's pocket or satchel. The elaborate metal fittings on a liturgical manuscript protected it through centuries of active use. Manuscripts such as these which link us so directly to the past are a special and tactile pleasure for all lovers of the medieval book from students to teachers to collectors.

Sandra Hindman and Laura Light



1.

CONRAD HOLTNICKER OF SAXONY, *Sermones and Speculum Beatae Virginis Mariae* (Mirror of the Blessed Virgin Mary); with Sermons by ALDOBRANDINUS DE CAVALCANTIBUS, ANTONIUS AZARO OF PARMA, MARTINUS POLONUS and unidentified authors

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment
Austria (Vienna?) or Southern Germany, c. 1275-1300

CHAINED BINDING (HOW TO THWART BOOK-THIEVES)

DESCRIPTION: 190 folios on parchment, complete, red initials, 15TH-CENTURY BINDING of blind-tooled calf over wooden boards, with engraved and bossed cornerpieces, fore edge clasp, chain hasp with chain intact and terminating in a ring, in excellent condition. Dimensions 182 x 127 mm.

A collection of some of the most important works by the early Franciscan writer, Conrad of Saxony, copied not long after their composition. His *Mirror of the Blessed Virgin Mary* circulated widely but is rare on the market (only four copies of recorded in the United States). It survives in a handsome and well-preserved 15th-century binding with a chain attached to its lower board, attesting to its use in a late medieval chained reference library, likely that of the Dominicans of St. Maria Rotunda in Vienna. [TM 767]

\$125,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

2.

LAURENTIUS RUSIUS, *Hippiatria sive Marescalia* (Book on the Health of Horses), in the Italian translation by ANTONIO DAPERA, *Liber meneschalcie*

In Italian and Latin, illustrated manuscript on paper
Northern Italy (perhaps Ferrara), dated 1434

PRACTICAL MANUAL WITH A PRACTICAL COVER

DESCRIPTION: 82 folios, complete, red initials, five marginal drawings in red or in brown with yellow wash, stains and dirt, CONTEMPORARY BINDING of limp vellum, some repairs. Dimensions 283 x 217 mm.

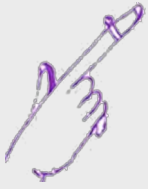
Rare signed and dated manuscript of the Italian translation of one of the principal treatises on veterinary medicine for horses, most likely made for the actual use of the ducal farrier at the court of Niccolo III d'Este in Ferrara. It includes charming pen and ink drawings (surely by the scribe). The simple vellum binding was a practical choice for a practical book (lightweight, inexpensive, and flexible); this manuscript was once folded vertically and stowed in someone's pocket or satchel. [TM 1026]

\$125,000



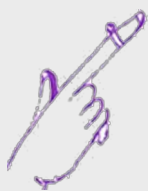
[Full description and images available online](#)

CHAINED BINDING (HOW TO THWART BOOK-THIEVES)



[1. ~ TM 767]

[Full description and images available online](#)



PRACTICAL MANUAL WITH A PRACTICAL COVER



[2. ~ TM 1026]

[Full description and images available online](#)

3.

PS.-AUGUSTINE, *Sermones ad fratres in eremo* (Sermons to the Brothers in the Desert);

PS.- PUBLIUS LENTULUS, *Epistola de forma et statura Jesu Christi ad Senatum romanum* (Letter on the form and stature of Jesus Christ to the Roman Senate); sermon by AUGUSTINE

In Latin, manuscript on paper

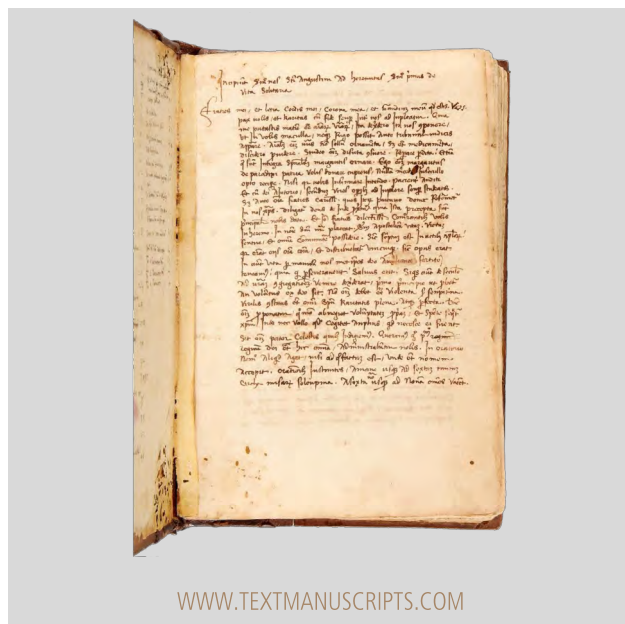
Northern Italy, 1458

COST-SAVING STRATEGY (BOARDS LEFT BARE)

DESCRIPTION: 64 folios on paper, lacking 8 leaves, a few stains, ORIGINAL BINDING with leather spine and wooden boards left bare, minor worming, old repairs to spine. Dimensions 223 x 150 mm.

This is an excellent example of a late medieval codex copied by an identified scribe for his personal use. Its distinctive mercantesca script and lack of decoration set it apart from contemporary humanist manuscripts made by the commercial book trade. Here we find selections from the pseudo-Augustinian sermon collection combined with other texts, including the famous forgery describing Christ's appearance. Its sturdy original binding was a frugal choice, using leather only to cover the spine and leaving the boards bare. [TM 1013]

\$24,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

4.

Office of the Dead (Use of St. Kunibert, Cologne); Prayers before celebrating Mass; Funeral service; Necrologium (added)

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment and paper with musical notation

Germany (Cologne), 1487 and later additions dated 1727

ARMORED FOR PROTECTION AND DISPLAY

DESCRIPTION: : 64 folios on parchment and paper, complete, cadel and penwork initials, wear and significant soiling throughout, EARLY 16TH-CENTURY BINDING of blind-tooled leather over wooden boards with large cornerpieces and center ornaments, upper board with title-plaque, some wear especially to the spine. Dimensions 230 x 158 mm.

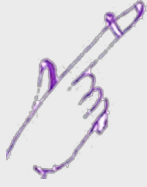
Relatively large in format, this carefully written and decorated liturgical manuscript from an important church in Cologne was used daily by the canons for the liturgy associated with death and burial. Dated and with a known donor, it also includes an 18th-century necrology with names, dates, and burial locations. It is preserved in an elaborate 16th-century binding with impressive metal fittings and a title-plaque on the front cover. [TM 644]

\$55,000



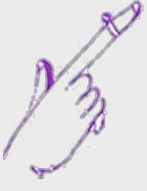
[Full description and images available online](#)

COST-SAVING STRATEGY (BOARDS LEFT BARE)



[3. ~ TM 1013]

[Full description and images available online](#)



ARMORED FOR PROTECTION AND DISPLAY



[4. ~ TM 644]

[Full description and images available online](#)

5.

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

FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR LITURGICAL USE

DESCRIPTION: 114 folios on paper, watermarks, complete, illuminated initials, minor stains and smudging, CONTEMPORARY BINDING of blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, brass bosses, clasps and catches, and border-strips, modern head-bands. Dimensions 200 x 140 mm.



Handsome manuscript, a perfect size for teaching, featuring

distinctive German musical notation known as Hufnagel (horseshoe-nail). Alongside the Latin liturgical texts are texts for the Mass and recipes for make-up in German, opening the possibility of female ownership. The volume underlines the continuation of medieval traditions of bookmaking well into the age of print. Its contemporary blind-tooled binding illustrates the skill of German binders using durable and attractive tawed pigskin. [TM 947]

\$45,000

[Full description and images available online](#)

6.

HENRICUS SUSO, *Horologium Sapientiae* (Clock of Wisdom)

In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper

Germany (Southwestern?) or Switzerland?, 1426

HANDSOME BINDING FOR THE MODERN DEVOTION

DESCRIPTION: 252 folios on paper, complete, red initials, some with penwork, some stains in the lower margins and other signs of use, ORIGINAL BINDING of blind-tooled red leather over wooden boards, some modern repairs, covers worn, two bands are broken at the front hinge. Dimensions 156 x 105 mm.



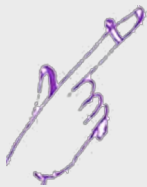
The *Horologium sapientiae* by the Dominican mystic Henricus

Suso was one of the most popular devotional texts of the later Middle Ages. Its emphasis on the Passion of Christ and its critique of the failings of the contemporary Church explains its appeal with both clerics and lay men and women associated with the *Devotio moderna*. The handsome original binding is a special feature; now in serviceable condition, with wear that reveals the binding structure. [TM 563]

\$49,000

[Full description, images and video available online](#)

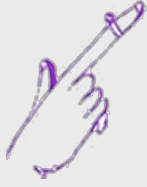
FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR LITURGICAL USE



[5. ~ TM 947]

[Full description images and video available online](#)

HANDSOME BINDING FOR THE MODERN DEVOTION



[6. ~ TM 563]

[Full description, images and video available online](#)

7.

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

NOW FRAGILE, BUT TESTIFYING TO ORIGINAL USE

DESCRIPTION: *67 folios on parchment, complete, decorated initials on colored or gold grounds, 12 historiated initials, 2 full-page illuminated borders, slightly trimmed and rubbed, 16th- or 17th-century leather binding. Dimensions 225 x 158 mm.*

Guillaume de Nangis, Benedictine monk and librarian at the royal Abby of St.-Denis, was the official chronicler of the kings of France responsible for the “continuations” of the *Grandes Chroniques de France*. This is an unrecorded witness to his translation into French of one of the most important medieval French chronicles. The last available copy was on the market in 1909, and it is represented in the United States by a single example. There is no modern edition. Survives in its original binding, now fragile, but evidence of the financial resources of the original owners of this large volume. [TM 1014]

\$110,000

[Full description and images available online](#)



8.

Vulgate Bible

In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment
Spain, Kingdom of Castile (Seville?), c. 1240-1260

A RARITY: 13TH-CENTURY PORTABLE BIBLE STILL IN AN EARLY BINDING

DESCRIPTION: *328 folios on parchment, missing 2 quires and 5 additional leaves, numerous very fine pen initials, 15TH-CENTURY BINDING, likely Spanish, of blind-tooled brown leather over beveled wooden boards (possibly reusing original boards?), rebacked, slight cracking along front hinge. Dimensions 172 x 123 mm.*

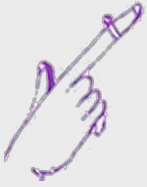
A rare example of a 13th-century portable Bible from Spain, with distinctive pen decoration that links it to other Bibles made in Castile. Small Bibles were copied in great numbers in the thirteenth century in France, England, and Italy, but Spanish Bibles of this type are significantly less common. Moreover, most of these Bibles survive in later bindings, making this manuscript, which survives in a 15th-century binding (probably Spanish) particularly noteworthy. [TM 844]

\$140,000

[Full description and images available online](#)

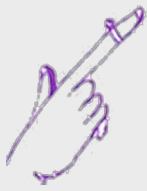


NOW FRAGILE, BUT TESTIFYING TO ORIGINAL USE



[7. ~ TM 1014]

[Full description and images available online](#)



A RARITY: 13TH-CENTURY PORTABLE BIBLE STILL
IN AN EARLY BINDING



[8. ~ TM 844]

[Full description and images available online](#)

9.

Sermons, including THOMAS AQUINAS, *Quadragesimale* (third series); Marian Exempla; confessional treatise *Ad habendum salutifere confessionis ordinem*; and other texts on confession

In Latin, manuscript on parchment

Central Europe (Southern Germany or Austria), c. 1250-1275

PASTEDOWNS AS PROVENANCE EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION: *144 folios on parchment, complete, first page thoroughly abraded, 15TH-CENTURY BINDING of leather over wooden boards, parchment pastedowns (lifted), from Donatus's grammar and 14th-century charter. Dimensions 130 x 90 mm.*

Extensive and early Franciscan or Dominican sermon manuscript (with 93 sermons probably by Thomas Aquinas and 96 mostly by unknown authors), together with sermon exempla and texts related to confession. Its 15th-century binding preserves a pastedown made from a charter issued by Leonhard von Kärnten (of Carinthia), provincial minister of the province of Bavaria and Bohemia, datable between c. 1372-1392, and this volume may have once belonged to the famous monastery of Benediktbeuern in Bavaria. [TM 762]

\$65,000



[Full description, images and video available online](#)

10.

CICERO, *Topica* (Topics)

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

Italy (perhaps Florence or Rome?), c. 1460-1480

PUZZLING FLYLEAVES

DESCRIPTION: *25 folios on parchment, missing one leaf at the end, two 3-line polished gold initials on colored grounds, ORIGINAL BINDING of blind-tooled brown leather over wooden boards, covers and spine a bit worn, modern repairs. Dimensions 180 x 116 mm.*

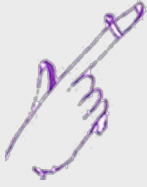
Cicero's important handbook on the art of argument, drawing extensively on examples from Roman law. Although there are well over one hundred extant manuscripts, the text appears infrequently on the market, six manuscripts having sold since 1964. Here the text is presented in an attractive slim volume, copied in a good humanist bookhand and decorated with illuminated initials. Its original blind-tooled binding preserves two leaves from an earlier unidentified scholastic text which – intriguingly – were copied in England. [TM 1138]

\$45,000



[Full description and images available online](#)

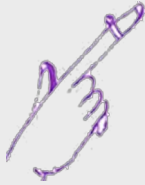
PASTEDOWNS AS PROVENANCE EVIDENCE



[9. ~ TM 762]

Full description, images and video available online

PUZZLING FLYLEAVES



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[10. ~ TM 1138]

Full description and images available online