

# Manuscript Books in the Sheridan Libraries

## Medieval and Renaissance

### RESOURCE GUIDE



Among the special collections in the Sheridan Libraries are manuscript books from the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance. This Guide is an attempt to list and describe some of these treasures and make them more visible for today's scholars.

#### This guide is in six parts:

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#### Religious texts

**Peter Lombard's Sentences.** (Petrus Lombardus libri IV Sententiarum). The *Sentences* was the main textbook of the late Middle Ages. Inspired by Abelard's work *Sic et non*, Peter Lombard compiled his work in Paris in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a thematic collection of excerpts from existing theological works, covering the whole of Christian doctrine. Book 1 treats the Trinity and divine essence; Book 2 the Creation and Fall; Book 3 the Incarnation, Redemption, and the virtues of Christ and Christians; Book 4 the sacraments and eschatology. Lombard attempts to reconcile conflicting authorities using dialectics. Written on vellum, with the original wooden boards. 2-column text, with rubrication and illumination. A very nice example of a large format medieval manuscript.

*Special Collections: MSB 19*

**Treatise on the Sacraments**, in Italian (Siena). Maestro Ugo (Hugh of St. Victor), July 10 – October 11, 1442. Hugh's masterpiece, and the first complete theological work of the 12<sup>th</sup> century schools.

Written on paper, with original boards covered in leather, with brass bosses and clasps. A very nice example of an ordinary manuscript, the kind that rarely survives.

*Special Collections: MSB 23*

**Clastrum animae.** 1417 Hugh of St. Victor.

Manuscript recycled as cover for wooden boards (binding), vestiges of clasps. Written on paper, in double columns.

*Special Collections: MSB 15*

**Book of Hours** (Horæ Beatæ Virginis). Books of Hours have been called “the bestsellers” of the Middle Ages. Many were produced between 1250 and 1550, for private use. They resemble breviaries in structure and content, with short devotions marking each of the 8 canonical hours, and often also include a calendar, the Hours of the Cross, the Office of the Dead, and other texts. The Garrett Library has a substantial collection of *printed* Books of Hours.

In Eisenhower Library: France. 15<sup>th</sup> century. ( ) use.

Written on vellum. Extensive illuminations, including full page. Tightly bound.

*Special Collections: MSB 7*

France. 15<sup>th</sup> century Rouen(?) use. Spine title indicates “*Missalle Romanum*”

Written on vellum. Some miniatures, illumination.

*Special Collections: MSB 6*

In the John Work Garrett Library:

Low Countries (in Dutch). 15<sup>th</sup> century. Utrecht use. A spectacular Book of Hours, with very fine illumination and miniatures. Rebound and sturdy enough for use.

*Gar. 8*

France. 15<sup>th</sup> century. Chartres use. Very nice miniatures and illumination. Gothic script. Some catchwords.

*Gar. 9*

France. 15<sup>th</sup> century. Rouen use. Front board detached.

*Gar. 13*

France. 16<sup>th</sup> century. Bourges use. Not much illumination, but interesting marks of ownership. Bound in velvet.

*Gar. 14*

**Latin breviary.** 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. A **breviary** is a service book containing all the texts necessary for the Divine Office (the canonical hours of prayer that priests and those in religious orders say daily). In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the several books used in the Divine Office (Psalter, antiphony, lectionary, martyrology, and others) were combined to form the breviary.

Written on vellum, in several hands. Very small, thick manuscript book. The small format indicates it was a private devotional book, probably Franciscan.

*Special Collections: MSB 1*

**Psalms** (Psalter graece). Italy, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. **Psalms** were a staple in medieval religious practice, for both the clergy and the laity. All of the psalms were recited at least once a week by monks and nuns. They were personal prayers as well for the laity, establishing a direct communication between the reader and God. They were also written in a Latin that was easier to learn than other texts, and they were not tied to specific days or seasons. They could be read or recited anytime. Psalters, books of psalms, then were the primary devotional, liturgical, and educational text of the Christian Middle Ages. Modern half-leather binding.

*Special Collections: MSB 34*

**Psalterium Latinum: Commentary on the Psalms.** 14<sup>th</sup> century. Arranged by the 4 cardinal virtues: Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance. See above: **Psalms**

Written on vellum. Miniscule Gothic script with marginalia. Some rubrication. Modern leather binding.

*Special Collections: MSB 2*

**Prayer book in Latin** (some Dutch). 1462. Includes several texts including: Hours of the Holy Spirit, Office of the Dead, Penitential Psalms, Verse in honor of the Virgin Mary. Bound in stiff vellum, written on paper. Catchwords on every page, decorated initials. Exhibits some hierarchy of scripts.

*Special Collections: MSB 4*

**Antiphonary.** 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Book of music, with 4 line staves, 7 to a page.

Written on vellum. Red and blue initials throughout. Intact clasps.

*Special Collections: MSB 8*

## Secular literature

### **Aristotle. Physica.**

Only a small number of Aristotle's works were known in the early Middle Ages. But by the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, his works reached Western Europe in significant numbers and were enormously influential, and controversial, in the early universities.

*George Peabody Library (on deposit at the Walters Museum): MS 185*

### **Eclogues of Vergil.** 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Partial text of the Eclogues.

Heavily glossed manuscript, on paper.

*Special Collections: MSB 16*

### **De officiis.** Cicero. 1471.

Includes 3 books of Cicero: *Orationes in Catilinam*, *De Officiis*, and *Somnium Scipionis*.

Manuscript bound in morocco leather. Written in a humanist script, on paper. Each book has a separate, dated colophon. Some decorated initials, rubrication.

*Special Collections: MSB 3*

**De bello Judaico** (The Jewish War). In Italian, translated from the Greek. Flavius Josephus. An account (originally written in Greek) of the Jewish war of independence (66-73 AD), written by a prominent Jewish historian who was a participant. Josephus both served as commander-in-chief of the Jews in Jerusalem during the uprising, and later was part of the imperial retinue. His works were among the most widely read texts of the Middle Ages.

Large manuscript, written on vellum (goat) in a clear humanist script. Lovely illuminated initials, vertical catchwords every 10 leaves. Binding (front cover) bears the arms of Pope Pius VI. A beautiful specimen of a humanist manuscript

*Garrett Library: Gar. 15*

**Book of cosmology** (Liber de macrocosmo). Marcus Trivisano. Italy, late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Presumably a unique manuscript, although it may have been copied from the author's draft, which no longer exists. The text examines various questions concerning the creation of the earth and its existence in time.

**Book One:** the question of number is introduced (One), and the nature of the continuum.

**Book Two:** is the continuum infinitely divisible or not. This book is a useful demonstration of the kind of arguments that were used in the c14 to prove physical and metaphysical theorems.

**Book Three:** has the world always existed, or did it have a beginning in time?

**Book Four:** the age of the world and the time of the year it was created.

**Books Five and Six:** an *Hexaemeron* (the 6 days of Creation, after the creation of heaven and earth) in the form of a vision.

Written on vellum, with decorated borders, and very nice illuminations, including an author portrait on the 2<sup>nd</sup> leaf. Evidence of possible theft (scissored out piece of 1<sup>st</sup> page).

*Special Collections: MSB 17A*

**Die heimlichkeiten der weiber.** Includes 3 texts, German translations of the original Latin:

*Secreta mulierum* ("Women's secrets", on obstetrics and women's diseases; largely filled with popular beliefs, astrology and superstition; enjoyed great popularity. Falsely attributed to Albertus Magnus)

*Der Buch Trotula* (the most influential compendium on women's medicine in medieval Europe)

*De curis mulierum* ("On treatments for women").

At the end is the translator's name: Testkoppf(?). German manuscript written in Saxon Elector curial hand about 1400.

Beautiful stamped/tooled pigskin binding, with vestiges of ties. Very cursive German script, with rubrication of chapter headings and initial letters.

*Special Collections: MSB 20*

**Treatise on War and law** (Quid Bellum, quid Jus'). 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Written on paper, without rubrication. Very legible humanistic script in 1 column.

*Special Collections: MSB 5*

**Logica cum addimento circa veritatis criteria.** 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Written on paper. A manuscript that was intentionally (?) made to resemble a printed book. A very interesting book. 3 other, separate texts are bound with this text. Each has individual pagination. Beautiful manuscript table(s) of contents, and tail pieces; The 3<sup>rd</sup> text has hand-drawn "plates". Very clear watermarks.

*Special Collections: MSB 18 no. 1*

**Metaphysica universa.**

*Special Collections: MSB 18 no. 2*

**Prima geometriae elementa.**

*Special Collections: MSB 18 no. 3*

**Philosophia Liber tertius**

*(not cataloged, but bound with the 3 texts above)*

**Quaestiones de jure.** (15<sup>th</sup> century?) being three quires, probably from the same manuscript. Radulphus Brito ca.1270-1320, was an influential grammarian, based in Paris. He was one of the Modistae (a school of grammarians in the 13<sup>th</sup> century)

Contents:

Hic continentur xx. pecie // questiones ethicorum, questiones phisicorum, questiones ethicorum // questiones veritatis logice, questiones thome de anima // quaternus de questionibus prioris // questiones <de> posterioribus // quaternus de sophismatibus // scripta prioris a. g. de noigent // questiones prioris a radulpho britone // ii quaterni de anima questiones ethicorum

Consisting of 3 different texts, in different hands. Very clear evidence of pricking. Initial spaces left blank (not rubricated, but space left). No real binding; the quires are loosely wrapped in parchment (very poor condition – burned?). An interesting artifact.

*Special Collections: MSB 18 A*

**Trattato di rettorica.**

Tiny book in an interesting binding: scrap from a music manuscript (illuminated). On paper.

*Special Collections: MSB 60*

**De re uxoria liber.** Francesco Barbaro. early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

A well-know treatise composed 1415-16 in Italy, on the virtues of marriage and wifely duties.

Written on parchment “in an Italian hand”, with some marginalia. Good illustration of hair side vs. flesh side of parchment. Some rubricated initials, and some guide letters.

*Special Collections: MSB 13*

## **Facsimiles of Manuscripts**

### **The Joshua Roll**

Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana Codex Vaticanus Ms. Pal. graec. 431. Made in the 10th century, at the time of the so-called Macedonian Renaissance, the scroll presents the Old Testament Book of Joshua in an illustrated cycle. Although a small part is missing at the beginning of the Book of Joshua, the central piece of this sixth book of the Old Testament – according to the current counting method – has survived in a complete and full version. Its Greek Bible texts correspond to the Septuagint. The text is a mixture of Greek majuscule and minuscule forms, containing extracts from relevant Bible scenes as well as some additions to ensure a better understanding of the individual episodes.

The original was made of parchment and was close to twenty meters long. The *Joshua Roll* is an interesting artifact, because it is a classical book form, the rotulus or scroll, which was used in Antiquity and supplanted by the codex in the early centuries AD.

*Special Collections: ND 3358 .J81 1983 QUARTO*

### **Le Roman de la Rose**

Morgan Library manuscript M. 948.

*Special Collections: PQ 1527.A1 1993 Quarto*

**Bestiary.** Facsimile of Ashmole Manuscript 1511. Probably part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century family of bestiaries that were expanded rearrangements of the 4<sup>th</sup> century Latin *Physiologus*. Bestiaries were compilations of stories in which the characteristics of animals (real and imaginary) serve as allegories for moral and religious instruction. The *Physiologus* sought to reveal the nature of God by unveiling correspondences between the natural world and heavenly archetypes.

*Special Collections: PC 2055 .B4 P4 1982 Quarto*

### **Divine Comedy. Dante.**

- From the Biblioteca Estense di Modena. 2 volumes. Commentary volume contains a complete transcription of the text and discussion of the illuminations and images in the manuscript

*Special Collections: PQ 4301.A1 1995 FOLIO*

- Illustrated by Botticelli. Facsimile of Codex reg. lat. 1896, Biblioteca apostolica vaticana; and Codex. Ham. 201 (Cim. 33), Kupferstichkabinetts der Staatlichen Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz Berlin and Kupferstichkabinetts der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin (DDR).

*Special Collections: PG 1301 .A1 R4 1986 FLAT FOLIO*

- Biblioteca apostolica vaticana. Mss. (Urb. lat. 365)

*Special Collections: PG 1301.A1U7 1965 FC*

**Decameron.** A manuscript believed to be in Boccaccio's hand.

*Special Collections: PG 1267 .A1 H33 1975 FLAT FOLIO*

### **San Paolo Bible.** Abby of Saint Paul, Rome.

A full-color copy of a Bible probably originally produced in Reims between 870 and 875 AD and came to Rome in 877 AD.

*Special Collections: ND 3355.5 .S35 1992 FLAT FOLIO*

### **Le Psautier de Saint Louis.** Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

A psalter is the Book of Psalms used either for personal or liturgical purposes. This facsimile is of a psalter, the original of which is from Gothic France of the last half of the thirteenth century.

*Special Collections: ND 3357 .S3C32 1972*

### **Bible Moralisée.** National Library of Austria.

A picture bible, the *Bibles Moralisées* were books used for religious instruction in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Europe. A *Bible Moralisée* is essentially a picture book arranged with eight biblical scenes per page, each set in a square or roundel and interpreted by a Latin text.

*Special Collections: ND 3355 .V5 1973 QUARTO*

**The Crusader Bible.** Pierpont Morgan Library.

Produced from a thirteenth-century French Bible owned by the in New York. The original medieval Bible includes the books of Genesis through 2 Samuel and is a masterpiece of French illumination produced for the Crusader King of France, Louis IX (1226-1270). The Bible is one of the earliest picture books of its time and was created originally without accompanying text. However, over time, marginalia were added in Latin, Persian, and Judeo-Persian to produce the work we see today.

*Special Collections:* ND 3355.5 .K73 K738 1998 FOLIO

**De Arte Venandi Cum Avibus.** (On the art of hunting with birds). Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. (Vatican Library).

Frederick II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, a passionate hunter, composed a work on the habits, anatomy and care of birds of prey, sometime in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The original manuscript was lost in Parma in 1258, and Frederick's son, Manfred, prepared a copy of Books One and Two, from which this facsimile was made. The miniatures were probably copied from those in Frederick's original work, possibly based on Frederick's own drawings. Doubtlessly created in southern Italy, as it bears stylistic resemblance to other manuscripts produced there during the same period, this manuscript contains more than five hundred images of birds, representing over eighty different species.

*Special Collections:* ND 3399 .F7W5 1969 QC

**Vergilius Romanus.** Virgil. Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Vatican Library).

Virgil's *Eclogues* is one of the finest manuscript books from classical Antiquity. The text is written in rustic capitals, with the precision of a stonecutter, and the illustrations are large and colorful. The manuscript has suffered over the centuries though, its parchment has deteriorated and many of its original illustrations are probably lost. This facsimile faithfully reproduces the state of the parchment, showing how the ink sometimes flaked off the flesh side (smooth) of the skin, how it also bled, and sometimes ate through the parchment.

*Special Collections:* PC 1801 .A2 1985 QUARTO

## A typical classification scheme for medieval libraries

This guide follows the most basic order found in medieval library catalogs, and reflects the medieval attitude toward the written word.

- The Bible and biblical commentaries are always listed first
- Then the writings of the Church Fathers, those closest in time to Christ: Gregory the Great, Jerome, Origen, Ambrose, Augustine, Basil, Athanasius, Cyprian, Hilary
- Followed other writings concerning the Church: liturgical books, canon law, homilies, saints' lives, hymns
- And lastly secular works, including writings of Greek and Latin authors; school books (rhetoric, arithmetic, logic, grammar); medical treatises; bestiaries and herbals; histories (chronicles)

A strong current of neo-Platonism runs through the Middle Ages, and so the divine leads the library catalogs, and divinity emanates downward through the texts, gradually giving way to the worldly writings of Greek and Latin writers, who, nevertheless, retain a spark of the divine.

Variations to this basic scheme of course existed. But there exists a remarkable similarity among early medieval library catalogs; from St. Gall to Corbie.

## Artifacts and specialized teaching resources

**Specimens of Parchment.** A portfolio with 9 specimens of different parchments.

*Special Collections: TS 1165 .R41 1976 QUARTO*

**Parchment skin.** An entire, uncut, skin, ready for preparation for writing.

*Special Collections, with teaching materials*

### Late Carolingian vellum manuscript leaf

from a Homiliary in Latin, later used as a book binding (Italy, Tuscany, ca. 1125).

### Bible leaves

1. Ecclesiastes. Paris, 1250. (small format “Paris Bible”)

Bibles that appeared c. 1230, arranged in an identical order, resembling modern Bibles; with a nearly standard set of 64 prologues. Generally of a small format, a single volume, and possibly made for use in classrooms and for preaching.

Small, thin parchment leaf, with some rubrication, many abbreviations.

2. Leaf of a large glossed Bible (2).

With *Glossa ordinaria*: by the German Walafrid Strabo (died 849), had some knowledge of Greek and made extracts chiefly from the Latin Fathers and from the writings of his master, Rabanus Maurus, for the purpose of illustrating the various senses of all the books of the Bible. This gloss is quoted as a high authority by St. Thomas Aquinas. Until the seventeenth century it remained the favorite commentary on the Bible; and it was only gradually superseded by more independent works of exegesis.

Showing many phases of manuscript production: pricking, ruling, different scripts, marginal and interlinear glosses, rubrication.

*Cage Teaching collection: Box 10*

**Papyrus.** Sheets and a roll of modern papyrus, showing the construction of papyrus and how it functioned as a textual support and book format.

*Special Collections, with teaching materials*

**Leaf of Manuscript (facsimile). (2)** Elaborate mise-en-page, with illumination.

*Special Collections, with teaching materials*

**Handmade Paper.** Facsimile sheets of handmade paper that demonstrate the various book formats (folio, quarto, octavo)

*Special Collections, with teaching materials*

## Selected bibliography of secondary materials

Dictionary of the Middle Ages: an excellent background source.

*General Reference: D 114 .D51 1982*

Medieval Christian literary imagery : a guide to interpretation. R.E. Kaske. An indispensable bibliography of sources.

*LSC: BR 117 .K33 1988*

Cambridge Illuminations : ten centuries of book production in the Medieval west. edited by Paul Binski and Stella Panayotova.

*ND 3131 .C36 C36 2005 QUARTO*

Introduction to manuscript studies. Raymond Clemens.

*Z 105 .C58 2007 QUARTO*

Medieval foundations of the western intellectual tradition, 400-1400. Marcia Colish

*CB 351 .C54 1997*

The mind of the Middle Ages, A.D. 200-1500 : an historical survey. Frederick B. Artz.

*CB 351 .A7 1980*

Glossed books of the Bible and the origins of the Paris book trade. Christopher De Hamel.

*Z 6 .D441 1984*

The idea of the book in the Middle Ages. Jesse Gellrich

*Z 6 .G441 1985*

Commerce with the classics : ancient books and Renaissance readers. Anthony Grafton

*PA 3013 .G68 1997*

Leaves of gold. edited by James R. Tanis. An exhibition catalogue of illuminated manuscripts from Philadelphia collections, with very good, short essays on manuscript production.

*ND 3125 .L43 2001 quarto*

The intellectual life of Western Europe in the Middle Ages. Richard Dales.

*CB 351 .D271 1992*

Manuscript culture in Renaissance Italy. Brian Richardson.

*Blue PQ 4075 .R53 2009*

The Bible as book : the manuscript tradition. Ed. John L. Sharpe III and Kimberly Van Kampen.

*BS 4.5 .B53 1998*

Scribes and scholars: a guide to the transmission of Greek and Latin literature. L.D. Reynolds.

*PA 47 .R5 1991*

Understanding illuminated manuscripts: a guide to technical terms. Michelle Brown.

*ND 2889 .B76 1994*

A guide to Western historical scripts from antiquity to 1600. Michelle P. Brown

*Z 114 .B76 1990 QUARTO*

## Relevant Electronic Resources and Web sites

**The ORB** : Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies.

<http://the-orb.net/>

**The Labyrinth**, resources for medieval studies. Georgetown University

<http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu/>

### **Internet Medieval Sourcebook**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

**Medieval Manuscript Manual**, a very valuable, in-depth resource for the study of manuscripts. Includes sections on materials and techniques, patronage, typology of the medieval book, and glossary.

<http://www.ceu.hu/medstud/manual/MMM/home.html>

### **Scribner's Encyclopedia of Early Modern World**

Available from the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Click on the link on this page:

<http://library.jhu.edu/eresources/databases/g.html>

### **Catalogue of Digitized Medieval Manuscripts**

Find fully digitized manuscripts currently available on the Web. Search on specific terms, or use the "Search Manuscripts" link to search on particular fields, such as date, or provenance information. Also browse by the Location of an archive or library, the shelfmark of an item, by the author, or by the language. Our own Roman de la Rose project is indexed here.

<http://manuscripts.cmrs.ucla.edu/index.php>

### **Digital Scriptorium**

Image database of medieval and renaissance manuscripts that unites scattered resources from many institutions. Presently viewable are records for 5,300 manuscripts and for 24,300 images.

<http://SCRIPTORIUM.COLUMBIA.EDU/>

**DScriptorium** : devoted to collecting, storing and distributing digital images of Medieval manuscripts.

<http://www.byu.edu/~hurlbut/dSCRIPTORIUM/>

**New Catholic Encyclopedia**: a very good source for background information on authors and works of the Middle Ages.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

### **Other Resource Guides available:**

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Encyclopedism

Samuel Johnson and his Dictionary

French Theater Collections

Early Modern Women

The Scholar's Bookshelf : The Middle Ages  
*Revised: 8 April 2010*