Editor’s Remarks:

This issue I begin with news of our own, that is, of Vatican Film Library events. Registration information, conference program, and abstracts for the upcoming 41st Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies are now posted on our website: http://libraries.slu.edu/special_collections/stl_conf_manu. The guest lecture will be delivered by Mary A. Rouse: “Why Paris? Deep Roots of a Medieval University.” This year we have an eclectic round-up of session topics—including Heraldry, Food, Bindings (Coptic), Captions, and Games—as they pertain to medieval manuscripts. Elizabeth Morrison and Frank Coulson will present papers in the Work in Progress panel. A special session is devoted to a monument of thirteenth-century Parisian illumination: The Morgan Picture Bible, MS M.638 in the manuscript collections of the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. This ties in with two exhibitions being held in St. Louis in celebration of the city’s 250th anniversary: one at the Saint Louis Art Museum, and the other presented by the Vatican Film Library and exhibited in the foyer of Pius XII Memorial Library. Both exhibitions will be running during our 41st Annual Conference. See the Exhibitions section in the newsletter for more details.

People have sent me a record number of news items for this issue, and I thank you all for these contributions. May I make a suggestion for those of you with conference programs or other material in pdf format? It is not possible for me to attach a pdf to this newsletter per se and in the past I have tried to extract the contents and present them as text, with varying degrees of success, especially if there are images involved. I wonder if your material could be connected with a web page or some other kind of electronic configuration, for which I could furnish the url? Otherwise, it would be best to offer it in a word program, from which I can copy, cut, and paste text and images.

Research information sent by Deborah Brown and Jan Ziolkowski at Dumbarton Oaks:
The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library holds a large collection of microfilm of manuscripts held in other institutions. Since 2011, a team has been working to evaluate the microfilm and create a database that helps researchers identify whether Dumbarton Oaks holds microfilm for a particular manuscript: http://www.doaks.org/library-archives/library/mmdb.

While Dumbarton Oaks staff are not permitted to duplicate images from the microfilm, we encourage interested researchers to see information about using the Library on the institution’s website: http://www.doaks.org/library-archives/library/access-info for Reader’s access to the Library and http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants for fellowship opportunities.
To Attend


English Fourteenth-Century Illuminated Manuscripts in the British Library
Monday, 1 December 2014
British Library Conference Centre
Speakers:
Paul Binski, Alixe Bovey, Julian Luxford, Nigel Morgan, Kathryn Smith, and Lucy Freeman Sandler
Evening book launch and reception hosted by Sam Fogg, at the Sam Fogg Gallery
Registration fees: £20 general, £15 for AMARC members, £10 for students. Lunch provided.
To register, send a cheque made out to AMARC to Kathleen Doyle, Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Foreign delegates may register and pay on the day. Places limited to 80.

This announcement from Jennifer Atwood:
This month, the Museum of the Bible will be partnering with the College of the Ozarks on an exhibition entitled “Illuminating the Word.” The exhibit examines how the tradition of illuminating and illustrating the Bible has evolved from the Middle Ages to the present day, and will feature original leaves and two facsimile volumes from the St. John’s Bible, as well as manuscripts and printed bibles from the Museum of the Bible’s collection. One of the manuscripts that will be featured in the exhibit is Green Collection MS 788, perhaps the earliest known prayer book created for Charles V (circa 1516) and illuminated by a collaborator of Simon Bening. This small manuscript contains 36 decorated pages, many of which feature exquisite miniatures and full-page or three-quarter-page borders in the emerging Northern Renaissance style. This is the first time this manuscript will be on public display since joining the Museum of the Bible’s collection.

“Illuminating the Word” will run September 9–October 27 at the Boger Art Gallery on the campus of College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO.
An important exhibition was launched in Chantilly September 6th and runs through December 9th, 2014, held in the Bibliothèque et Archives du Château: La Passion du Prince: Enluminures italiennes de la collection du duc d'Aumale. It presents thirty-two items, among them manuscripts, cuttings, and illuminated printed books from the collection of Henri d’Orléans. It was curated by Olivier Bosc, Teresa D’Urso and Pier Luigi Mulas and a catalogue accompanies the exhibition. For more details, see http://www.domainedechantilly.com/domaine-de-chantilly/evenements-a-laffiche/exposition-la-passion-du-prince.


Celebrations in St. Louis for its 250th anniversary

The Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University announces the opening of the exhibition Rex Christianissimus: Books, Art, and Architecture in the Time of Saint Louis, curated by Susan L’Engle. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Louis, Missouri, this exhibition explores key elements that have made King Louis IX of France (1214–70) a memorable figure, one worthy of admiration and veneration even to his contemporaries and from 1297 as a saint. Focusing on the material culture of Louis’s unique historical context, displays include manuscript facsimiles, replicas of reliquaries, and reproductions of manuscript illuminations. The three major themes of the exhibit explore the king’s virtues most admired by his contemporaries: his personal piety, his patronage of religious and cultural institutions, and his zeal for the grand enterprise of the crusades to the Holy Land. The exhibition is free and open to the public and will be on display October 1-31 in the West Pine entrance lobby of Pius XII Memorial Library.

Saint Louis Art Museum
Louis IX: King, Saint, Namesake
August 29–November 2, 2014,
Galleries 234 and 235

As part of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Louis, the Saint Louis Art Museum presents a free exhibition highlighting both exceptional art from the reign of Louis IX and later works inspired by the celebrated thirteenth-century monarch. Presented in two galleries, Louis IX: King, Saint, Namesake will focus on the arts created under Louis IX as well as the ongoing interest and devotion to this very popular king turned saint. The first gallery presents art produced during the reign of Louis IX (1226-70). On display is carved ivory, metalwork, and decorated manuscripts from the late thirteenth century. Featured are pages from the famed Morgan Library Picture Bible (New York, Morgan Library & Museum, MS M.638), thought to be commissioned by Louis IX, himself. Completed around 1250, the Bible is regarded as a stellar example of Gothic manuscript illumination. Visitors will also see materials used in the making of manuscripts, including a display of pigments, touchable samples of the animal-skin parchment used to make medieval books, and a six-minute video showing the various aspects of manuscript production.

The second gallery will focus on the life and legacy of Louis, both as king and, later, as saint. The exhibition includes images of Louis from the 17th, 19th, and 20th centuries, along with explanatory material about Louis’s life, his popularity as a saint, and his relationship to the city of St. Louis. Featured in this part of the exhibition will be a 17th-century illustrated book about Louis’s most famous achievement (bringing the Crown of Thorns to Paris), a portrait of a 17th-century poet in the guise of St. Louis, and an altarpiece painting by Louise-Marie Mauduit (1784-1862) that Bishop Louis William Valentine DuBourg sent to the city of St. Louis in 1818.

Louis IX: King, Saint, Namesake is curated by Judith W. Mann, curator of European art to 1800, with Elizabeth Wyckoff, curator of prints, drawings, and photographs. This exhibition is in conjunction with STL250, celebrating the 250th Birthday of St. Louis. To learn more about STL250, check the website: http://www.stl250.org/.
Les Enluminures is delighted to announce that Dr. Christopher de Hamel is joining the company as Senior Vice-President, effective September 10, 2014. Dr. de Hamel is perhaps the best-known name in medieval manuscripts in the world. He has written multiple books on manuscripts and book collecting, translated into at least seven languages, and he has lectured in every continent (except the Antarctic), including at very many of the greatest libraries and museums.

In this new position, Dr. de Hamel will act as business-getter for Les Enluminures, among many other diverse roles. He will liaise with private and institutional clients worldwide, giving advice and support in selling and buying manuscripts. In addition, he will help supervise the cataloguing team and participate in the company’s active publishing program.

Established in 1991, Les Enluminures is now based in Paris, New York, and Chicago. Its CEO and President is Sandra Hindman, Professor Emerita of Art History at Northwestern University and author herself of numerous books on medieval manuscripts. Dr. Hindman says “We could not be more thrilled to have Christopher joining our team. I have known him for the last 40 years and have nothing but the highest esteem for him. The niche that medieval manuscripts occupies in today’s art market owes a great deal to the incomparable talents of Christopher, who has made manuscripts accessible, interesting, increasingly valuable – and just plain fun – to an ever-widening audience. I look forward with the greatest of pleasure to our association.”

For more information please contact Charlotte Stovell at info@lesenluminures.com +33 (0) 1 42 60 15 58

MIND THE GAPS
The 10th Annual Marco Manuscript Workshop, February 6-7, 2015
The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The Tenth Marco Manuscript Workshop will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The workshop is organized this year by Professor Thomas Burman (History) and Ph.D. candidates Scott Bevill (English) and Teresa Hooper (English).

William Sherman closed his 2008 Used Books with the following question: “Are books from the past precious relics, in which marginalia are dirt or desecration, or are they inanimate objects (like pots or arrowheads) that are only brought to life by traces of the human hands and minds that used them?” This year’s workshop seeks to address this question by highlighting not only studies of marginalia but also erasures, lacunae, palimpsests, and the transformative processes of rebinding and repurposing. After fires, water, rats, cats, early modern editors, contemporary censors, later bookbinders, and other disasters have damaged manuscripts, we nevertheless discover that we can learn much from what is missing from or added to a manuscript. The life of these books may be found not only through the text written on the page, but also scribbled in the margins, erased between the lines, pasted within the bindings, glossed on the endpapers, or folded into the quires. What do we see when we look in the gaps? How can we develop new ways to explore the rich textual interplay of imperfect manuscripts? What meaning and value can we recover from cases of dirt and desecration? We welcome proposals on any aspect of this topic, broadly imagined, from late antiquity to the boundary of the modern era.

The workshop is open to scholars and students at any rank and in any field who are engaged in textual editing, manuscript studies, or epigraphy. Individual 75-minute sessions will be devoted to each project; participants will be asked to introduce their text and its context, discuss their approach to working with their material, and exchange ideas and information with other participants. As in previous years, the workshop is intended to be more a class than a conference; participants are encouraged to share new discoveries and unfinished work, to discuss both their successes and frustrations, to offer both practical advice and theoretical insights, and to work together towards developing better professional skills for textual and codicological work. We particularly invite the presentation of works in progress, unusual manuscript problems, practical difficulties, and new or experimental models for studying or representing manuscript texts.

Presenters will receive a stipend of $500 for their participation.

The deadline for applications is October 15, 2014. Applicants are asked to submit a current CV and a two-page letter describing their project via email to Vera Pantanizopoulos-Broux (vpantan@utk.edu). The workshop is also open at no cost to scholars and students who do not wish to present their own work but are interested in sharing a lively weekend of discussion and ideas about manuscript studies. Further details will be available later in the year; please contact Vera for more information.
MORE EXHIBITIONS

The Pierpont Morgan Library & Museum


The spectacular Crusader Bible is one of the greatest illuminated manuscripts in the world, renowned as much for its unrivalled and boldly colored illustrations as it is for its fascinating history. The work brings Old Testament stories alive in bright images replete with medieval castles, towns, and battling knights in armor, all set in thirteenth-century France. Before the manuscript is rebound visitors will have the opportunity to view over forty of its miniatures, the work of six anonymous artists who were the artistic geniuses of their day. They will also learn about the manuscript’s incredible journey from France to Italy, Poland, Persia, Egypt, England, and finally, New York.

The picture book, which was likely made in Paris about 1250, has long been associated with the court of Louis IX, the pious crusader king of France and builder of the Sainte-Chapelle. The book originally had no text, but along the way inscriptions were added in Latin, Persian, and Judeo-Persian, indicative of changing owners. The illuminations represent one of the greatest visualizations of Old Testament events ever made. Some of the stories are familiar, but others, more rarely depicted, are surprising.

This exhibition is made possible by the Janine Luke and Melvin R. Seiden Fund for Exhibitions and Publications; the Sherman Fairchild Fund for Exhibitions; James H. Marrow and Emily Rose; and the H. P. Kraus Fund.

Roger E. Reynolds (1936–2014) - in memoriam

It is with sadness that the Council of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies reports the passing of Roger E. Reynolds, Senior Fellow Emeritus of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, on 24 September 2014. Professor Reynolds (A.B., Harvard; J.D., Chicago; Ph.D., Harvard) taught liturgy at Carleton University in Ottawa before coming to the Institute in January 1977 as a Visiting Fellow in liturgy. He was elected Senior Fellow of the Institute in March of that year and taught in the fields of liturgy, law, and history in the graduate programmes of the Institute and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, serving terms as academic secretary in both the Centre and the Institute. Professor Reynolds also served as a supervisor in the Institute’s postdoctoral L.M.S. programme, and in the dozen years since his retirement in 2002 he has continued to serve as an advisor and participant in the academic programme and as an editor of Monumenta Liturgica Beneventana, the major research programme he set up at the Institute in 1988 with Professors Virginia Brown (†2009) and Richard Gyug, with grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

During his many years of service teaching and supervising and his administrative work at the Institute, his individual research and group research projects resulted in an extensive list of publications, many of which are listed at the end of the collection of studies presented to him in 2004 by his former students and other colleagues, Ritual, Text, and Law, ed. Kathleen G. Cushing and Richard F. Gyug (Ashgate). Through his research, teaching, and election to the boards of dozens of leading academic societies and publications, as well as his work bringing his scholarly interests to the attention of the wider community, he has made a lasting contribution to scholarship and will be remembered with gratitude by his many colleagues throughout the world. For more information, see http://www.pims.ca/academics/news-and-announcements/post/in-memoriam-roger-e-reynolds-1936-2014.
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies  
Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowships

The Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies offers post-doctoral Fellowships to be used for research at the Institute in the medieval field of the holder’s choice. Mellon Fellows will also participate in the interdisciplinary Research Seminars. The Mellon Fellowships are intended for young medievalists of exceptional promise who have completed their doctoral work, ordinarily within the previous five years, including those who are starting on their professional academic careers at approximately the Assistant Professor level. Fellowships are valued at approximately $35,000 (CDN). Applications for the academic year 2015–2016 should be sent to the Institute Secretary at the address below or emailed in document or PDF format to barbara.north@utoronto.ca.

Completed applications, as well as all supporting documentation, must be received no later than 1 February 2015 and must include official confirmation that the PhD has been examined and that its award has been approved by the appropriate authority by that date.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the web site at:

Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies  
59 Queen’s Park Crescent East  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5S 2C4

Understanding the Medieval Book 2015:  
A Seminar with Dr. David T. Gura, Univ. of Notre Dame

On Monday and Tuesday 13–14 April 2015, the University of South Carolina will host its fifth annual “Understanding the Medieval Book” symposium on its main (Columbia) campus. The clinician will be Dr. David T. Gura (PhD, Classics, OSU), Curator of Manuscripts at the University of Notre Dame. Gura will focus on the art of analytical manuscript description, especially for Books of Hours and Bibles. He will also deliver a public lecture entitled “A Broken Book: The Reconstruction of a Book of Hours from Medieval Brittany.” The seminars are free, but space is limited to 25 participants. Further information and an application packet can be found here (submission deadline 15 January 2015):

An important message from Charlotte Denoël,  
Conservateur, chef du service des manuscrits médiévaux at the Bibliothèque nationale de France  
courriel: charlotte.denoel@bnf.fr

The French National Library has launched a public appeal for the acquisition of a royal manuscript of King François Ier of France, Description des Douze Césars avec leurs figures (Tours, c. 1520). This exceptional manuscript, classified as a National Treasure, was illuminated by Jean Bourdichon for King François Ier of France. Manuscripts of this sort were probably made to be used as diplomatic gifts for King Henry VIIIth of England and Charles Quint.

The manuscript is the most beautiful of three original copies and would be the first to enter the French national collections. The public appeal is open to all who wish to help the French National Library enrich its collections. Once acquired, the manuscript will be digitised and made available on our digital library, Gallica, for all to admire. If you wish to participate as an international donor you may make a donation directly online at bnf.fr. It is fast and secure.

Or write directly to us:
Bibliothèque nationale de France  
Délégation au mécénat  
Quai François Mauriac  
75706 Paris cedex 13  
01 53 79 48 51

If you are an American tax resident, you may make a donation through the association Friends of Fondation de France (501 c 3) which allows the BnF to raise funds from the USA. Donations are tax deductible from United States federal and state income. Fill out the donation form: http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/ffdf/ffdf_donation_form.pdf Then send it to: Friends of Fondation de France 275 Madison Avenue, Suite 401 New York, NY 10016

For an important donation special arrangements are available Contact us at manuscritroyal@bnf.fr or +33 (1) 53 79 48 51 see also http://blog.europeana.eu/2014/10/help-the-national-library-of-france-acquire-a-national-treasure/
32nd Annual Conference, Illinois Medieval Association
Call for Papers:

**Medieval Narratives**
Saint Louis University, Philosophy, February 20-21, 2015
Keynote Speakers
Cynthia Robinson & John Van Engen

We invite proposals dealing with any aspects of medieval narratives. Please submit abstracts through http://www.regonline.com/IMA2015CFP by November 21, 2014. Questions are welcomed at: IMA2015@slu.edu

More information at: http://ima2015.slu.edu

Philosophy Consoling Boethius and Fortune Turning the Wheel, about 1460 - 1470, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Ms. 42, leaf 1v. Digital image courtesy of the Getty’s Open Content Program

Special Session at the Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, 14–17 May 2015

The 2015 Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo will feature a hands-on seminar entitled, “Using Fragmentary Books of Hours in College and University Teaching.” Jointly sponsored by the WMU’s Waldo Library and the Irvin Dept. of Rare Books at the University of South Carolina, the seminar will be led by Dr. Scott Gwara, University of South Carolina. Gwara will address the special problems posed by manuscript fragments for teaching, and suggest ways of integrating fragments as well as manuscript books in courses on language, literature, history, history of the book, art history, and a host of other humanities subjects. A concurrent exhibition of manuscripts is planned for the event.

Mark the date:
Charles Wright announces a lecture taking place in 2015 at the University of Illinois, sponsored by the Program in Medieval Studies:

"The Higden Manuscripts: Notable Endeavors for Pastoral Care in Fourteenth Century England"
Speakers: Eugene Crook (Florida State University) and Margaret Jennings (St. Joseph's College)
Date: April 24, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Illinois Main Library, Urbana, IL

Martin Bertram has shared some important recent bibliographical references for Roman and canon law:
Professors Matti Peikola of the Department of English, University of Turku, Finland and Merja Kyöö of Uppsala University have recently edited a special issue of the journal *Studia Neophilologica: A Journal of Germanic and Romance Languages and Literature* entitled “Manuscript Studies and Codicology: Theory and Practice” (2014).

**Contents**

Merja Kyöö and Matti Peikola  
*Philology on the Move: Manuscript Studies at the Dawn of the 21st Century*

Bo Andersson  
*Female Writing in Manuscript and Print: Two German Examples from the Cultural and Political Context of Late Seventeenth-Century Sweden*  
Maria Aurora von Königsmarck (1662-1728) and Eva Margaretha Frölich (?-1692)

Mark Bland  
*Stemmatics and Society in Early Modern England*

Thomas Gobbitt  
*Codicologica1 Features of a Late-Eleventh-Century Manuscript of the Lombard Laws*

Anna C. Horn  
*The Scribe and his Exemplars: A Comparative Study of Four Manuscripts by Thorgerus Haquini*

Teemu Immonen  
*The Changes in the Pictorial Decoration of the Rule of St Benedict at Monte Cassino in the 10th and 11th Centuries*

Ruut Kataisto  
*G. B. Bracciolini: Vita Capranicae*

Eva Nystrom  
*Codicological Crossover: The Merging of Manuscript and Print*

Kari Anne Rand  
*The Index of Middle English Prose: An Assessment after Twenty Volumes*

Hanna Salmi  
*Visual Presentation of English Body and Soul Debates*

Mari-Liisa Varila  
*Graphetic Variation within One Scribal Hand as Evidence on Manuscript Production*

Fredrik Wahlberg, Mats Dahllof, Lasse Martensson and Anders Brun  
*Spotting Words in Medieval Manuscripts*

Christine Watson  
*The Treatment of Graphic Variation in Slavic and Latin Editorial Philology*

**TO ATTEND:**

Josefina Planas of the University of Lleida has organized an upcoming conference on illuminated manuscripts: *Manuscrits il·luminats: La tardor de l’edat mitjana i les noves llums del renaixement*. It is the third international cycle of conferences on the history of art, and will be held at the University of Lleida 17–18 November, 2014. There will be four sessions, of which one is a guided tour of the wonderful cathedral Seu Vella of Lleida and of the Chapter Archive of the Seu Nova of Lleida; seven international speakers will deliver papers. Check out the program at http://www.caem.udl.cat/newsletter/manuscrits/manuscrits.html.

With a small exhibition, the Diözesan Museum Bamberg (Bavaria) celebrates the coronation of Henry II and his wife Kunigunde as emperor and empress at Saint Peter’s in February 1014. Both are venerated as saints of the Catholic Church and are buried in the Bamberg Cathedral, which they founded along with the Bamberg Diocese. This event follows three important shows that displayed Ottonian manuscripts connected with the holy couple: the first in 2002, celebrating the one-thousandth anniversary of their coronation as German king and queen, another in 2007 commemorating the one-thousandth anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Bamberg, and the last in 2012 marking the one-thousandth anniversary of the founding of Bamberg Cathedral. This year’s Diözesan Museum show presents nearly 150 items from the eleventh to the twenty-first century commemorating the two saints. Among its offerings are many important Bamberg manuscripts of the fourteenth and fifteenth century. Standing out is the first known presentation of the “Pflugscharenwunder” of St. Kunigunda, illuminated around 1200 in a manuscript of the Bamberg State Library (RB.Msc.120). The exhibit also includes a late medieval copy of this manuscript, which is held in the Munich Staatsliche Graphische Sammlung (Inv. Nr. 40279-Z). The exhibition runs July 4–October 12, 2014.

Karl-Georg Pfändtner
Scott Gwara’s Auction Round-Up: Summer 2014

Medieval books and fragments of exceptional quality changed hands in the summer auctions. Noteworthy in early spring was a pristine copy of Raymond Peñafort’s *Summa de casibus conscientiae* and *De matrimonio*, with glosses apparently by William of Rennes (Bonham’s, 19 March, lot 65, £40K). Professionally copied in a Paris workshop, this diminutive book (130 x 94 mm.) boasts the complex layout generally reserved for glossed Bibles. On June 18 Bonham’s auctioned four manuscripts owned by St. John’s Kirk, Perth, Scotland [fig. 1]: St. Augustine’s sermons, English, ca. 1450 (lot 48, £12,500); a curious, yet sumptuous, commentary on Zephaniah, early sixteenth-century French (lot 47, £7,250); the fat summer volume of a Cistercian breviary in a late medieval binding (lot 49, £13,750); and a fine Rouen Book of Hours, ca. 1500 (lot 50, £27,500). Dreweatts Bloomsbury had no luck with a fragmentary and damaged Bible (17 July, lot 181), but sold a large group of English charters (lots 186 ff.).

Christie’s had a dynamite season. The Paris sale on 30 April yielded £27,500 for an Italian Book of Hours (lot 84). The London sale of *Valuable Manuscripts and Printed Books* on 21 May showcased many gems: an attractive noted missal from Spain (lot 4, £12,500), lately seen on eBay (still complete); an “astrological and fortune-telling” compendium from southern Germany, ca. 1450, with multiple fold-out tables (the tables are common, the fold-outs rare; lot 5, £47,500); a thirteenth-century English Pocket Bible, densely glossed (lot 6, £35,000); a shimmering late fifteenth-century Italian illuminated mass-book chock full of votive masses (lot 8, £12,500; more than 80 votive masses can be found in a missal now at Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame, Hesburgh Library, MS Lat. c. 13 [fig. 2]); and the Hours of Periconio Naselli (lot 9, £50,000), with miniatures by the Master of Jean Rolin II. Ambassador to Alfonso V of Aragon, Periconio II Naselli died in 1470. The sale also included a radiant, complete Parisian Book of Hours (lot 12, £47,500). Truly exceptional was one of eleven copies of *Chastysing of Godde’s Children* in Middle English, ca. 1450 (lot 11, £128,500). The first copy to emerge since 1945, this one had been unknown.

Middle English also featured in Christie’s incomparable sale, “Yates, Thompson and Bright: A Family of Bibliophiles,” which achieved nearly £5m. In the manuscript world, “Yates Thompson” is a name to conjure with. The manuscripts came from Allan Heywood Bright (d. 1941), whose maternal uncle Henry Yates Thompson (d. 1928) was one of the world’s most discriminating collectors of manuscripts. Having vowed to possess precisely 100 of the choicest manuscript books he could find, he obsessively culled his library, adding ever more sublime treasures. [Many Yates Thompson manuscripts now reside in the US, at the Walters Art Museum, Harvard, the Morgan Library & Museum, the NYPL, Princeton University, the Free Library (Philadelphia), the Huntington Library, Union Theological Seminary, etc. For an example, see New York, New York Public Library, MS Spencer 2, the De la Twyere Psalter from York, England, ca. 1300–15, at: http://uclibrary4.berkeley.edu:8088/xtf22/search?rmode=digscript;smode=basic;text=yates%20thompson;docsPerPage=1;startDoc=2;fullview=yes]. Yates Thompson bestowed manuscripts on his nephew (such as a Pocket Bible, lot 1; “every collection of M.S.S. should have one of these”) and his uncle Samuel Thompson Yates did as well. Their largesse is recorded in the catalogue notes.

Peter Kidd reported that Christie’s fielded tremendous prior interest. Dealers, he observed, sought the fresh inventory against robust competition from private collectors. Vigorous internet and telephone bidding came from Germany, New Zealand, Italy, and Belgium. The Middle English *Mirrour of Recluses* (lot 12) fetched £182,500, for the obvious reason that it is narrowly datable to ca. 1414–22, and the sole complete copy, different in many respects from the only other witness, London, British Library, Harley MS 2372, recently published.

The star of the sale was a missal, *Use* of Udine (lot 11), with eight historiated initials illuminated in Vienna by the Master of the Prayerbook of Albrecht V. Although missing its Canon miniature (a Crucifixion), this lavish codex sold for £1,082,500, simply on account of its historical context (the exile of Louis of Teck, Patriarch of Aquileia), breathtaking decoration, and massive scale. It went to an anonymous telephone bidder speaking Italian to Christie’s representative Eugenio Donadoni.

Other stand-outs in this rich auction were an impressive Parisian illuminated copy, ca. 1450, of Leonardo Bruni’s *De primo bello Punico* (completed 1421) in the French version by Jean Lebègue (d. 1457) (lot 17, £386,500). Chancellor of Florence, Leonardo Bruni (Leonardo Arsentino, d. 1444) was a giant of Italian Renaissance Humanism. With 32 miniatures, the immense Bright manuscript (almost 21 inches tall) ranks among the most lavish of fewer than twenty extant copies. A similarly mammoth glossed copy of Juvenal’s *Satires* with excellent decoration from Tours, ca. 1472, was presented by Erhard Windsberg to Pierre Doriole, Chancellor of France (d. 1485) (lot 19; £242,500). The catalogue notes explain that the Sorbonne Press—the first printing operation in France, founded ca. 1470.
Scott Gwara, (cont.) —

—commonly bestowed lavish manuscript versions of their output on high-ranking officials. This volume accompanied a Juvenal printed in 1472. An immaculate Nepoleonic copy of Solinus's Collectanea rerum memorabilium with 51 white-vine initials (lot 20) achieved £218,500. Illuminated by the Aragonese court artist Cola Rapicano and apparently written by Giovanni Marco Cinico, this deluxe manuscript was commissioned by Ferdinand I, the Aragonese king of Naples (d. 1494) [A similar collaboration can be found in New York, Morgan Library & Museum, MS M.1163, Epistles of Pseudo-Phalaris. Intriguingly, this is the second Cinico manuscript with royal Aragonese provenance to have been sold in recent years; see http://libraries.slu.edu/files/special_collections/vflNewsletter_7.pdf]. Ferdinand was the son of Alfonso V, whose ambassador Periconio II Naselli owned the Book of Hours mentioned above. Finally, lot 24, a volume in French by Catherine d'Amboise (d. 1550) entitled Les continuelles mediations de la verité et soudaine mutation des creatures raisonnables, ca. 1525, reached £86,500. The Christie’s staff made a convincing case for Catherine’s authorship, demonstrably a third work of hers, hitherto unknown.

The “Family of Bibliophiles” sale included less remarkable but still extraordinary manuscripts, such as a richly illuminated Pisan Pocket Bible (lot 2, £110,500); a fragmentary Oxford copy of De decem praeceptis by Robert Grosseteste, acquired by Yale (exceptionally rare; £56,250); an early fourteenth-century Sarum breviary plausibly from Devon (lot 6, £122,500), the companion volume to Morgan Library MS M.329; the Marche Hours, from Bruges but of Sarum Use (by the so-called “Pink Baldachin” artists; lot 9, £47,500); rules of the Camaldolese order, from Florence, ca. 1400 (lot 10, £35,000); the charming and idiosyncratic Prayer Book of Henryk Ysendjic, Brussels, ca. 1460–75 (lot 16, £80,500); a second horae in a tall format, Use of Avranches (lot 22, £52,500); and a Poissy Processional (lot 25, £32,500). Christie’s professional and lavish catalogue did justice to the Bright collection, untouched for more than 70 years.

Sotheby’s offerings were, almost inevitably on this occasion (Medieval & Renaissance Manuscripts, 8 July) less august, totaling just over £1m. Among the fragments and cuttings were a portion of a Wycliffite Bible leaf (lot 2, £47,500); scenes from the Life of St. Denis (lot 16, £31,250), from a French Psalter with constituents in American collections, notably the Lilly Library and Art Institute of Chicago, both with connections to C. Lindsay Ricketts (d. 1941) [fig. 3] [See Christopher de Hamel, Gilding the Lilly: A Hundred Medieval and Illuminated Manuscripts in the Lilly Library (Bloomington, Ind., 2010), 94–96]; secular illuminations of Gawan (lot 17, £30,000) and Ptolemy’s death (lot 19, £6,875); an enormous Last Judgment tableau, ca. 1510–20 (lot 20, £12,500); a quirky colophon leaf depicting a “Tree of the Virgin Mary” from a Gradual by Brother Leonard Kindhauser of the Convent of Observantine (i.e., Franciscan) Friars in Ulm, dated 1517–20 (lot 29, £21,250); a gorgeous and pristine Sienese miniature of Christ blessing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the Book of Daniel (lot 34, £37,500); a cutting by the papal artist Vincent Raymond (lot 39, £21,250), whose works are represented in North America at the Getty Museum, Morgan Library, and Chazen Art Museum (University of Wisconsin, Madison), and in two private collections [See, e.g., the cover and fig. 11 in: http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/images/uploads/Files/Hidden_Treasures_gallery_guide.pdf].

Most surprising in the 8 July sale were two small fragments of the West Saxon Gospels, ca. 975, acquired by an American buyer (lot 1, £128,500) [fig. 4]. Somewhat later fragments of the text now reside at Yale (endleaf and two binding strips known there as “Ker 1,” denoting the first entry in N.R. Ker’s 1957 Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon). Except for the Blickling Homilies and Will of Æthelgifu now at the Scheide Library (Princeton), very little Old English—sometimes just glosses—can be found in the New World: at the Lilly Library (Indiana University), Morgan Library, the Free Library (Philadelphia), Yale, and the University of Kansas (Lawrence) [See the exhibition catalogue, Anglo-Saxon Vernacular Manuscripts in America by Rowland L. Collins (Morgan Library, 1 April–9 May 1976), updated in N.R. Ker, “A supplement to Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon,” Anglo-Saxon England 5 (1976): 121–31].

On Old English discovered worldwide between 1976 and 2001, see Mary Blockley, “Further Addenda and Corrigenda to N.R. Ker’s Catalogue,” in Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: Basic Readings, ed. Mary P. Richards (London, 1994), 79–85. Not counting the glossed items mentioned above, about two dozen pre-Conquest Latin fragments can be found at the Getty Museum, Lilly Library, Harvard, Newberry Library, Yale, Morgan Library, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), University of Missouri (Columbia), and Folger Library (Washington, D.C.). This astonishing discovery of these Old English fragments affords an opportunity to identify other Anglo-Saxon manuscripts sold recently, all of vanishing rarity [On Anglo-Saxon manuscripts in the United States to 1991, see William P. Stoneman, “‘Writ in Anglo-Saxon Character and of No Further Use’: Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in American Collections,” in The Preservation and Transmission of Anglo-Saxon Culture: Selected Papers from the 1991 Meeting of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, ed. Paul E. Szarmach and Joel T. Rosenthal (Kalamazoo, Mich., 1997), 99–138. This publication provides essential background on some of the fragments mentioned herein, especially the Schøyen fragments.] Since 2001 pre-Conquest Latin codices sold have included a glossed Boethius, ca. 1000 (Sotheby’s, 5 July 2005, lot 80, £769,600), said to be the last Anglo-Saxon manuscript codex...
in private hands; and the Stonyhurst (St. Cuthbert) Gospels (to the British Library in 2012 for £9m). The Godwine Charter, a complete vernacular text, was acquired by Canterbury Cathedral after the sale (Sotheby’s, 10 July 2012, lot 37, est. £200k–250k). Fragments have included an Easter sermon by St. Augustine (eighth-century, Sotheby’s, 19 June 2001, lot 3, £22,350); a sacramentary (Sotheby’s, 18 June 2003, lot 26; Quaritch, cat. 1315 [2004], no. 56); decorated Northumbrian calendar bifolium from a venerable sacramentary (Sotheby’s, 4 December 2007, lot 44, £300,500); the Schuylen Aldhelm (Sotheby’s, 10 July 2012, lot 26, £337,250); medical recipes (ibid., lot 27[b], sold by private treaty after the auction) [See http://research-information.bristol.ac.uk/en/publications/interactions-between-brittany-and-christ-church-canterbury-in-the-tenth-century-the-linenthal-leaf[968cc1b-06ca-4c39-b1ed-d82476c8f18b].html]) came from the Bliss/Phillips/Dring collection of binding flotsam. [See Christopher de Hamel, “The Dispersal of the Library of Christ Church, Canterbury, from the Fourteenth to the Sixteenth Century,” in Books and Collectors, 1200–1700: Essays Presented to Andrew Watson, ed. J. Carley and C. Tite (London, 1997), 263–79.] I know of at least seven pre-Conquest Latin fragments in private hands, and doubtless more will emerge. Note that Sotheby’s, 10 July 2012, lot 38 (Inspeximus Charter dated 1259) contains one line of Old English.

The Sotheby’s fragments may well be the only Old English ever to emerge for public sale in many, many generations. Furthermore, they preserve the Insular minuscule of an identifiable scribe who made contributions to the Exeter Book of Old English poetry. Apart from their historical relevance—evidence of a lost Old English manuscript—could any chance discovery of Old English prose possibly be more consequential?

Codices in the 8 July sale began with lot 42, Justinian’s Digest in a rare thirteenth-century leather chemise binding, acquired by Yale (£86,500). Yale also owns a second chemise binding, MS Osborn fa56 (Christie’s, 23 November 2011 lot 12, Anglo-Norman verse). At Sotheby’s Yale also acquired an immaculate illuminated Arma Christi roll, the only example known in Dutch (lot 48, £52,500). Such rolls usually contain vernacular prayers, such as the example at Columbia University in Middle English [http://uclibrary4.berkeley.edu:8088/xtf22/search?field2=text;field1=text;operator2=and;operator1=and;join3=token;join2=token;join1=token;smode=advanced;country=England;term1=roll;bid=20;rmode=digscript;field3=text;docsPerPage=1;startDoc=3;fullview=yes]. The word “role” derives from “roll,” since early actors received their scripts on rolls resembling cigars. The format suggests that such prayers were intended to be memorized and recited like spontaneous utterance. This explanation would account for the vernacular texts, as Latin, an acquired language, would impede one’s empathy with the “script.” As a development of Anselmian “affective piety,” the devotio moderna associated with Holland and with the Windesheim Congregation in particular emphasizes this immediate empathy, a primary reason why Books of Hours were translated into Dutch at an early date. One of the first translators was Geert Groote, founder of the Windesheim movement.

For no obvious reason, Albrecht of Brandenburg’s illuminated Kriegsbericht und Memorial, a military manual in German, ca. 1550 went unsold (lot 43, est. £60k–80k). A commentary on Aristotle’s Physics, ca. 1480, achieved £22,500 (lot 44). With backing from the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, Purdue University acquired lot 47 (£37,500), Gregory the Great’s Homilies on Ezekiel, a mammoth book some 14 ½ inches tall, made at Huysberg Abbey and dated 1466. This is one of the key texts of Western monasticism. At least 44 other manuscripts from the abbey survive, and perhaps a Purdue undergraduate will undertake a study of the group. While lacking some leaves and a few quires, the Northumberland Bible (lot 49, £104,500) remains a stately, imposing example of thirteenth-century English Bible production. It was arguably produced in Norwich, but an inscription suggests some leaves and a few quires, the Northumberland Bible (lot 49, £104,500) remains a stately, imposing example of thirteenth-century English Bible production. It was arguably produced in Norwich, but an inscription suggests some leaves and a few quires, the Northumberland Bible (lot 49, £104,500) remains a stately, imposing example of thirteenth-century English Bible production. It was arguably produced in Norwich, but an inscription suggests some leaves and a few quires, the Northumberland Bible (lot 49, £104,500) remains a stately, imposing example of thirteenth-century English Bible production. It was arguably produced in Norwich, but an inscription suggests some leaves and a few quires, the Northumberland Bible (lot 49, £104,500) remains a stately, imposing example of thirteenth-century English Bible production. It was arguably produced in Norwich, but an inscription suggests some
A modest, but complete fourteenth-century text of Jacobus da Voragine’s *Golden Legend* made £22,500 (lot 53). This was followed by a group of liturgical books: a handsome breviary (lot 54, £10k); a Rhinelant antiphonal (lot 55, £18,750); a well-thumbed Psalter in contemporary binding (lot 56, £7,500); and a Windesheim Congregation antiphonal on paper in an original stamped pigskin binding (lot 57, £3k). Although small and incomplete, a Book of Hours with illuminations by Maître François sold for £92,500 (lot 60), on the strength of its excellent miniatures and overall fresh condition. The border below St. John depicts a wolf preaching to ducks and geese. Lot 61, a second Parisian *horae* with twelve miniatures by an anonymous Parisian artist, sold modestly for £25k. Here the border below St. John features a giant snail on the back of a four-legged beast. An early sixteenth-century Book of Hours of Fair condition with miniatures by Jean Coene made £20k (lot 62). The calendar illumination for May juxtaposes a nobleman holding a falcon with a nude couple sporting in the bushes.

The smaller European houses (Romantic Agony; Reiss und Sohn) offered few notable manuscripts, chiefly single leaves and cuttings. The regional French auctions listed a Book of Hours here and there, the best of which seem to be those hammered on 17 February by Vente Livres Roubaix, lot 107, a royal commission with 39 large illuminations and 145 calendar miniatures (est. €18k–20k), and lot 108, formerly owned by the counts of Oultremont near Liège (12 large miniatures, est. €15k-20k).

**FYI: Report on a little-known library**

The Kacimi Library at Zawiyet El-Hamel, El-Hamel, Algeria

*al-Maktaba al-Qāsimiyya bi-Zāwiyat al-Hāmil*

Luke Yarbrough, Ph.D.

One of the largest private manuscript collections in Algeria, the Kacemi Library is attached to the large zawiya in El-Hamel, a village located about 14 kilometers southwest of Bou Saada in the wilaya of M’Sila. It was established in the mid-nineteenth century by the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abi al-Qāsim al-Hasanī al-Sharīf al-Hāmilī, an important early leader in the Rahmāniyya tariqa who also founded (in 1279/1862 or 63) the zawiya with which the Library is associated. The Library has been maintained and developed down to the present by members of the Kacimi family, with support from the community of the zawiya.

**Manuscripts**

The Kacimi Library holds more than 700 titles in approximately 1500 manuscript volumes. The diversity of its collection is considerable, comprising, in addition to local productions on Sufi topics, manuscripts copied as far afield as al-Andalus, India, and Samarqand, autographs, and volumes in Turkish, Persian, and Latin, as old as the thirteenth century AD. There are also early printed works, such as the *Canon of Avicenna* printed in Rome in 1593, prints carried out under the aegis of Napoleon Bonaparte, and lithographs from Morocco and Egypt. The Library also holds a considerable cache of documents related to the history of the zawiya and more broadly to the Rahmāniyya tariqa in Algeria. Finally, there are back copies of a number of Algerian newspapers from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The manuscripts are richly and comprehensively catalogued in the following work:


**Access, Viewing, and Reproduction**

The Kacimi Library is supervised by dedicated volunteers and does not maintain regular access hours. During Ramadan and the month of August, when the zawiya school is not in session, it is particularly difficult of access. There are no formal guidelines for access or for the request of reproductions. Researchers interested in using the Library or particular works that it contains are requested to contact Mohamed Foued Kacimi (author of the catalogue noted above), in Arabic or French, at: darelkhalil@gmail.com. An alternative means of contact is kacimifoued@gmail.com. Thanks to the generosity of those responsible for the Library, it is often possible to obtain a pdf copy of a manuscript remotely. These copies are of excellent quality, as the Library is equipped with an overhead-capture photography stand. In some instances reproduction may not be possible, as when a manuscript is of unusually large size or in poor condition. Researchers whose needs require use of the library in person should likewise establish contact by the above means; requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Bou Saada is four hours from the capital by shared taxi (Inter-Wilaya). Ample hotel facilities are available; leading options are the Hotel Kerdada and Hotel al-Caid.

[With enduring gratitude to Ustadh Mohamed Foued Kacimi, from whom most of the information found here is derived. This short entry is envisioned as a small supplement to the article by Jocelyn Hendrickson (http://mela.us/MELANotes/MELANotes81/MELANotes81.pdf), which remains an indispensable resource.]
Medieval Depictions of the Bamberg Horseman in a Bamberg Cathedral Antiphonarium?
Karl-Georg Pfändtner

Few illuminated liturgical manuscripts used in Bamberg Cathedral in the late Middle Ages survive today. Most are held today in the Staatsbibliothek Bamberg (Bavaria), where the books of the Chapter Library and most of the cathedral treasury and the sacristy were brought after secularization in 1803. Among them, now being catalogued in a project financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, we find an Antiphonarium Bambergense with the shelfmark Msc. Lit.27, datable to the 1440s and illuminated by a Nuremberg workshop we know about from the illumination of a medical treatise written by Hermann Schedel in 1442, later in the rich manuscript collection of the famous Hartmann Schedel, the compiler of the Schedelsche Weltchronik [fig. 1]. The Antiphonarium manuscript contains only five illuminated initials of moderate quality with marginal acanthus leaves and vinescrolls, inhabited by birds, ink tendrils, and gold or colored dots in the Bohemian style, but there are hundreds of inhabited calligraphic initials executed by the scribe, presenting fantastic castles, profile faces, dragons and monkeys, birds, and semi-human beasts. Two of them, however, display portraits of a horse’s head (335r) [fig. 2] and the head of a knight (373r) [fig. 3]. Not only the horse, but also the young man’s head with staring eyes, half opened lips, a particular type of nose, and the chin-length curly hair, reminds us of one of the most important European sculptures of the thirteenth century: the Bamberg Horseman in Bamberg cathedral [fig. 4], considered the first monumental equestrian statue since classical antiquity. Could we suppose that a scribe and calligrapher, although of modest education, would be the first artisan in two centuries to copy the heads of the horse and the Bamberg Horseman? It seems plausible, especially if we take into consideration that the manuscript was written and illuminated in an external workshop for the use of Bamberg cathedral. We might expect that the scribe and calligrapher would have visited the cathedral before initiating his work on the liturgical manuscript intended for the use of that church. Possibly he was impressed, as we are, by the most important work of art located there (already 200 years old), especially at a time in which the revival of equestrian statues was taking place. Of course there is no evidence for this unusual hypothesis, but the circumstances of the manuscript’s production would support this likelihood. Naturally, before forming definite conclusions, we should look for parallels in other liturgical manuscripts.

[The Bamberg Antiphoner has been recently fully digitized: urn:nbn:de:bvb:22-dtl-0000016080; for the illumination in the Schedel-manuscript, see Manucripta 50.2 (2006): color plate 50.]
7th Annual Lawrence J. Schoenbergs Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age

November 6-8, 2014

Collecting Histories

In partnership with the Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Schoenberg Institute of Manuscript Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the 7th Annual Lawrence J. Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age. This year’s symposium highlights the work of the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts by bringing together scholars and digital humanists whose work concerns the study of provenance and the history of collecting pre-modern manuscripts. The life of a manuscript book only just begins when the scribe lays down his pen. What happens from that moment to the present day can reveal a wealth of information about readership and reception across time, about the values of societies, institutions, and individuals who create, conserve, and disperse manuscript collections for a variety of reasons, and about the changing role of manuscripts across time, from simple vehicles of textual transmission to revered objects of collectors’ desires. The study of provenance is the study of the histories of the book.

The program will feature papers and workshops that delve into these histories through both traditional and digital means. Speakers include:

Toby Burrows, King’s College London; Katharine C. Chandler, Free Library of Philadelphia; Megan Cook, Colby College; Alexander Devine, University of Pennsylvania; Derick Dreher, Rosenbach Museum and Library; Lisa Fa-gin Davis, Medieval Academy of America; James N. Green, Library Company of Philadelphia; Scott Gwara, University of South Carolina; Peter Kidd, Independent Scholar; William Noel, University of Pennsylvania Libraries; Nigel Ramsay, University College London; William Stoneman, Harvard University; Julia Verkholantsev, University of Pennsylvania.

Four workshops will offer hands-on exploration of problems and issues related to provenance research in the digital age:

Mining and Visualizing Manuscript Provenance Data at a Large Scale
*Leader: Mitch Fraas, University of Pennsylvania Libraries

The Bibale Database: A digital tool for researching historic collections and manuscript provenance (Background, Structure, Developments, Context)
*Leader: Hanno Wijsman, Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes (IRHT-CNRS) & Bibale

Provenance that POPs Workshop
*Leader: Laura Aydelotte, University of Pennsylvania Libraries

The Butcher’s Bill: What the Schoenberg Database Can Reveal about the Trade in Medieval and Renaissance Manuscript Fragments
*Leaders: Scott Gwara, University of South Carolina, and Eric Johnson, Ohio State University

For program details, click here. Special exhibitions of manuscripts will be on view at both institutions.

Registration fee is $35 ($10 for students with valid student ID). Registration opens September 15. Walk-in registrations will be accepted for a fee of $45 ($15 for students with valid student ID) to be paid in cash.

For more information, please contact Lynn Ransom at lransom@upenn.edu or (215) 898-7851.

For more information on the Schoenberg Symposium Series, see http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/ljs_symposium.html.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

● The latest issue of Digital Philology is devoted to “Digital Archives and Medieval Iberian Texts:” http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/digital_philology/toc/dph.3.1.html. The volume is edited and introduced by Albert Lloret, and includes manuscript studies and reflections on manuscript scholarship based on online repositories.

● Margaret Goehring, Space, Place & Ornament: The Function of Landscape in Medieval Manuscript Illumination (Brepols, 2014).


● Proceedings from a colloquium on conditions of book production and art historical contribution to their exploration are finally published and in form of a book as well as available online (there are contributions in English): Wege zum illuminierten Buch: Herstellungsbedingungen für Buchmalerei in Mittelalter und früher Neuzeit, ed. Christine Beier and Evelyn Theresia Kubina (Vienna, 2014); online (FWF e-book library, open access): https://e-book.fwf.ac.at/detail_object/o:5217?SID=&actPage=&type=listview
New World Imagery in Old World Manuscripts (Happy Thanksgiving)

It is an astonishing, if underappreciated fact that the first medieval manuscript documented in the western hemisphere, a French Book of Hours, arrived at Rio de la Plata in 1555 (Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, MS W.252). At almost precisely this time, the New World had begun to influence manuscript illustration in Europe. In 1513 Emperor Maximilian I (d. 1519) undertook a grand project to print a Book of Hours. A typeface was designed, modeled on script. Ten vellum proofs were pulled, one sent to the foremost artists of Germany to illustrate. Albrecht Dürer’s contributions included a South American Indian [fig. 1]. [The figure was long thought to be North American. A European painting of the Epiphany, ca. 1501, now at the Cathedral of Viseu shows a South American (Tupinamba) Balthasar, with feathered headdress, in a scene of the Adoration: http://www.passionforpaintings.com/art-gallery/vasco-fernandes-painter/adoration-of-the-magi-1501-06-xx-vasco-museum-viseu-oil-painting-reproduction. The image recalls a miniature on vellum sold at Christie’s 29 January 2014 lot 118, ca. 1550, in which Balthasar sports a similarly exotic hat: http://www.christies.com/lotfinder/paintings/giovanni-battista-castello-called-il-genovese-the-5766043-details.aspx?from=salesummary&intObjectID=5766043&sid=dc1689be-1c7b-4ee2-af13-8a0bd26db02d#top.] While the Prayer Book of Maximilian I hardly qualifies as a manuscript, it was printed on parchment and illustrated like one.

Since manuscript books in medieval style conveyed traditional imagery and had largely given way to print by the mid-sixteenth century, New World subjects in them are uncommon. The American turkey figures in two choir books. The University of Sydney, Rare Books and Special Collections Library, MS 358, a Spanish processional from Toledo, ca. 1550, depicts one in a trompe-l’oeil border [fig. 2]. The turkey appears in context with a Nativity illustrating the Christmas chants. [See Bronwyn Stocks and Nigel Morgan, The Medieval Imagination: Illuminated Manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand (Victoria, Australia, 2008), 114–15.] A second, more famous turkey from Toledo appears in the lower border of a Nativity in the Missal of Cardinal Juan Álvarez de Toledo, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, MS Barb. lat. 609, fol. 48v, illuminated by Giulio Clovio and Vincent Ray mond, ca. 1540 [fig. 3]. [See Elena de Laurentiis and Emilia Anna Talamo, The Lost Manuscripts from the Sistine Chapel: An Epic Journey from Rome to Toledo (Dallas, TX, 2011), fig. 26. Clovio’s preliminary drawing survives in London (Victoria and Albert Museum, Inv. n. 8078).] The turkey obviously captivated the prelates of Toledo.

Spaniards encountered the turkey in the Caribbean early in the sixteenth century, and returned home with breeding pairs. They described it in print from 1526 as an exotic peacock. Both fowl were designated by Latin pavo ("peacock"). Banquets of the well-heeled served tough peacock alongside succulent turkey. Yet the common associations with feasting (gluttony) and vainglory do not explain the curious illuminations in our choir books. Symbolizing the Incarnation, the peacock and its apotheosis the turkey represented eternal life. In City of God St. Augustine experimentally “proved” that the peacock’s flesh does not corrupt. Perhaps gobbling down turkey at Christmas is just as salient a metaphor, for the Christ child lying in a “manger” (think of it as a feeding trough) adumbrates communion.

Scott Gwara, University of South Carolina

Fig. 1. Albrecht Dürer’s drawing of a South American native (Staatsbibliothek, Munich).

Fig. 2. American turkey in the border of a Processional from Toledo (Univ. of Sydney, MS 358). Reproduced with permission of the Rare Books and Special Collections Library, The University of Sydney.

Fig. 3. Giulio Clovio’s turkey from the missal of Cardinal Juan Álvarez de Toledo (detail).