

## **TEXTMANUSCRIPTS**

## LES ENLUMINURES

# e-Catalogue Ten Exploring Text Manuscripts

## Paleographers' Darlings:

## DATED MANUSCRIPTS

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## e-Catalogue Ten

### **Exploring Text Manuscripts**

This new series of e-catalogues focuses on select themes of text manuscripts available in our inventory on www.textmanuscripts.com. This series follows 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 on the first Tuesday of the month.

## Paleographers' Darlings: Dated Manuscripts

Medieval manuscripts don't have title pages neatly listing when and where they were written. But descriptions of these manuscripts always begin with this information. Have you ever wondered how that is possible? The short answer to that question is dated manuscripts. Just as some scribes signed their names (see our e-catalogue, "The 'l' in Manuscript"), some recorded when, and sometimes also where, they copied their manuscript (commonly the date when they finished their task). Dates were also sometimes entered by other people involved in making a manuscript or by the original owner. Paleographers (scholars who study the history of script), cataloguers, and other manuscript scholars study dated manuscripts very carefully to learn how script changes over time. They then use this knowledge to date (and localize) undated manuscripts. Paleography is not an exact science, and good paleographers don't try to date a manuscript too closely, but they can arrive at pretty good answers to the question of when and where a particular manuscript was copied. Dated manuscripts are so important that the Comité international de paléographie latine (the International Committee of Latin Paleography) made the publication of catalogues describing dated manuscripts one of their founding principles. Here is our contribution: eight dated manuscripts, signed by their scribes or by others involved with the making of these books.

Sandra Hindman and Laura Light



#### Missal

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment with Hufnagelschrift musical notation Northwestern Germany (likely Cologne), 1420

## 1420: COMMISSIONING (AND PAYING FOR) A MISSAL FOR A PARISH CHURCH

DESCRIPTION: 319 folios on parchment, missing at least 9 text leaves, penwork initials, full-page miniature, book block trimmed, multiple signs of use, early leather binding over wooden boards, binding very worn and fragile.

Dimensions 340 x 260 mm.

A large, very handsome Missal that still retains its original full-page illumination of the Crucifixion by a Cologne artist



following in the tradition of the Master of St. Veronica. Made for the Church of St. Severinus in Erpel on the Rhine, the date and circumstances of its origin are detailed in a lengthy note: "In 1420, the wise and honest men, Henry Kremer, a married cleric, and Tielman Werner, town officials [or aldermen] in Erpel in charge of donations, arranged for this book to be written by the honest man Christian, the rector of the chapel in Bruchhausen, from the payments of leftover rents and the abundance of alms. In praise of God almighty, the Virgin Mary and most holy bishop Severinus, patron of Erpel and for the salvation of the souls of all the faithful dead, may they rest in peace, Amen."

[TM 1066]

\$55,000

Full description, images and video available online

#### 2.

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

In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper Southwestern German or Switzerland, 1426

#### 1426: LET GOD BE PRAISED NOW AND FOR ETERNITY

**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. Our copy is signed and dated by its pious scribe: "Here ends the *Clock of Wisdom*. In the year of our Lord 1426 on the sixth weekday [i.e. Friday] after the feast of Easter let God be praised now and for eternity, Amen. And this was completed on the day following the feast of St. Ambrose the most excellent doctor." The feast of St. Ambrose was commonly observed in the Middle Ages on April 4. [TM 563]

\$49,000



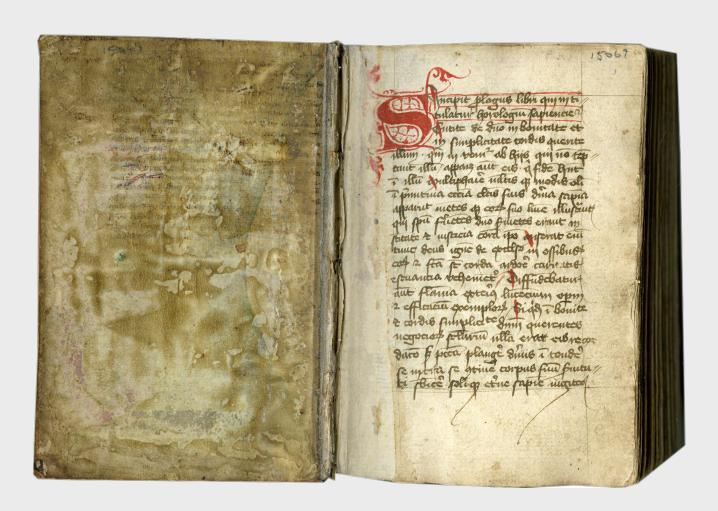
## 1420: COMMISSIONING (AND PAYING FOR) A MISSAL FOR A PARISH CHURCH



 $[1. \sim TM 1066]$ 

## 1426: LET GOD BE PRAISED NOW AND FOR ETERNITY





[2.  $\sim$  TM 563]

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

#### 1458: BY AND FOR BARTHOLOMEW IN HIS EVERYDAY SCRIPT

**DESCRIPTION**: 64 folios on paper, lacking 8 folios, written in mercantesca script by one scribe, a few marginal stains and tears, original binding with leather spine and wooden boards. Dimensions 223 x 150 mm.



The scribe of this manuscript signed his name and recorded the year, month, and even the time he completed this book: "I, Bartholomeus de Zachariis, completed this book by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ on Monday in January 1458 about the second hour of the night [that is around an hour after sunset]." Bartholomew may well have copied this manuscript for himself. Its distinctive *mercantesca* script, lack of decoration, and sturdy original binding set it apart from contemporary humanist manuscripts, whether owner-produced or made by the commercial book trade. The text, attributed to St. Augustine but certainly a later compilation, was a medieval best seller. [TM 1013]

\$24,000

Full description, images, and video available online

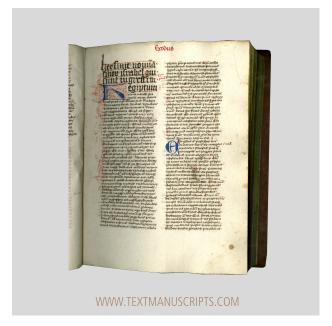
#### 4.

#### **Vulgate Bible**

In Latin, illuminated manuscript on paper Southern Germany or Northwestern Austria (Duchy of Bavaria), c. 1460-1500 (colophons dated 1463[?], 1475, 1500)

#### MULTIPLE DATES: 1463[?], 1475, 1500

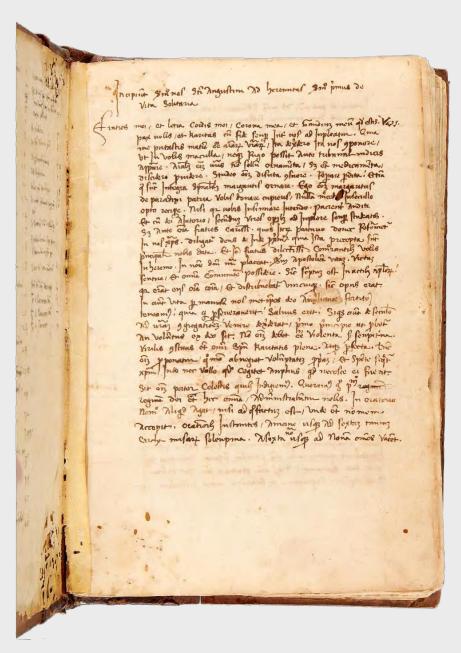
DESCRIPTION: Two volumes: v. 1, 317 folios, v. 2, 354 folios, on paper, both complete, two painted initials in v. 1, v. 1 with water damage in first quire with considerable text loss in first 8 folios, v. 2 with more extensive water damage, stains, lower margins repaired, 19th-century red leather bindings, somewhat worn, cracking at hinges. Dimensions 296-294 x 210 mm.



The first book printed by moveable type in Western Europe, the Gutenberg Bible of 1455, took its place within a revived tradition of larger-format Bibles like this one. Our manuscript, interesting for its text, is equally fascinating as a physical object, with several layers of script and decoration. The series of dates added to volume two include the original scribal colophon, with the date now tantalizingly difficult to read: "Here ends the Apocalypse. In the year 1<46>3." The later dates in the manuscript, 1475 and 1500, must refer to later stages of production. [TM 1044]

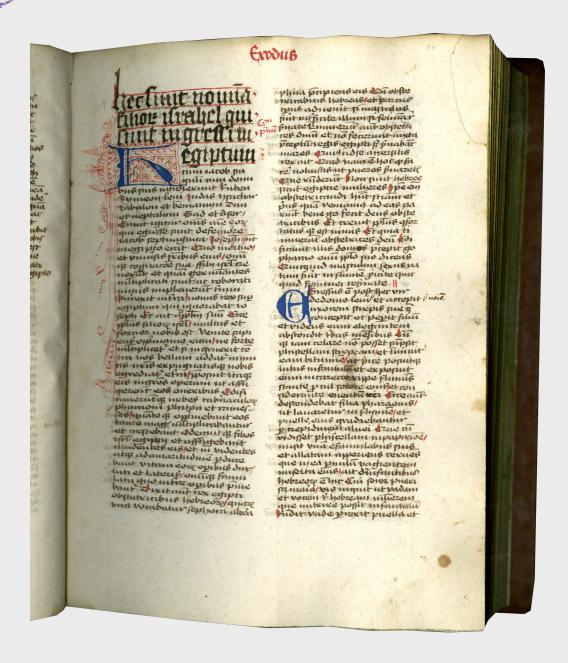
### 1458: BY AND FOR BARTHOLOMEW IN HIS EVERYDAY SCRIPT





 $[3. \sim TM 1013]$ 

## MULTIPLE DATES: 1463[?], 1475, 1500



 $[4. \sim TM \ 1044]$ 

Full description and images available online

RABBI MOSES MAIMONIDES, *Sefer Ha-Higgayon* (Treatise on the Art of Logic)

In Hebrew, manuscript on paper Northeastern Italy, November-December 1465

#### 5226 (1465) IN THE MONTH OF KISLEV BY ABRAHAM

DESCRIPTION: 25 pages on paper, lacking one folio, slight scattered staining at times somewhat obscuring text, all folios reinforced along gutters, bound out of order, repairs to several pages, modern maroon buckram binding. Dimensions 136 x 110 mm.

Maimonides's earliest work, written when he was only sixteen, is this philosophical text, the first extant handbook on logic



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composed by a Jew. Originally written in Arabic, it circulated widely in the Hebrew translation by Rabbi Moses Ibn Tibbon (d. 1283). This elegantly written manuscript is signed by the scribe, Abraham, at the end: "[The book] was completed and finished – praised be the Creator of the World! – by Abraham, may he live, in the month of Kislev, in the year 5226 Anno Mundi [November-December1465], on Friday, close to [the time of] receiving the [Sabbath] bride." [TM 1165]

\$50,000

Full description and images available online

6.

GREGORY THE GREAT, translated from the Latin into Italian by ZANOBI DA STRADA, *Morali di Santo Gregorio papa sopra il libro di Job, libri l-X* 

In Italian, illuminated manuscript on paper Northeastern Italy, Veneto (Venice?), dated 1474

1474: MOONLIGHTING SCRIBE? "WRITTEN BY ME, ZUANE DE ZANE, JEWELER"

DESCRIPTION: 188 folios on paper, missing three leaves, 8 illuminated initials, a few marginal tears and dampstaining, recased using original brown leather binding over wooden boards. Dimensions 328-332 x 230 mm.

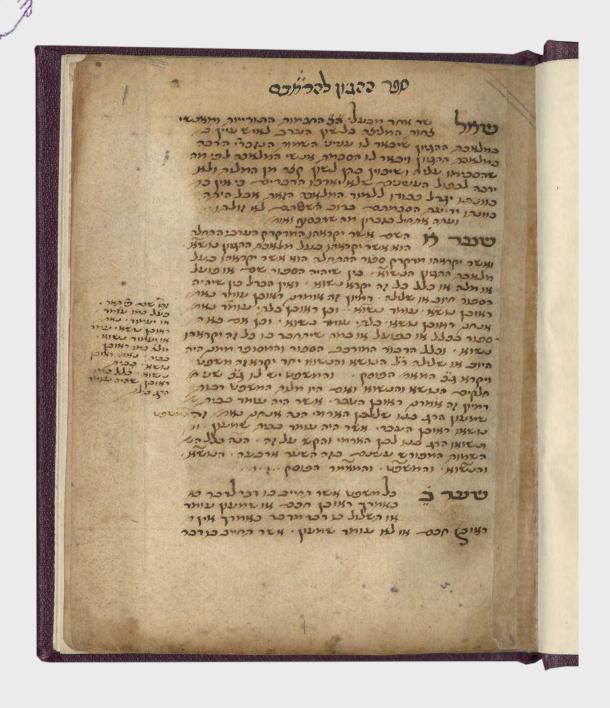
This handsome, formal volume contains an Italian translation

The second of th

of one of the most important and widely copied texts of the Middle Ages, the Moralia in Job by Gregory the Great. It was signed by its scribe, who interestingly identifies himself as a jeweler, perhaps working for someone named Simon, "Written by me, Zuane de Zane, jeweler, once for(?) Simon, and may whoever will read it pray to God for the writer. 1474." Forty copies of this translation survive (all except this one now in European institutional collections), but no other copies have been on the market in the last century. [TM 796]

\$65,000

## 5226 (1465) IN THE MONTH OF KISLEV BY ABRAHAM

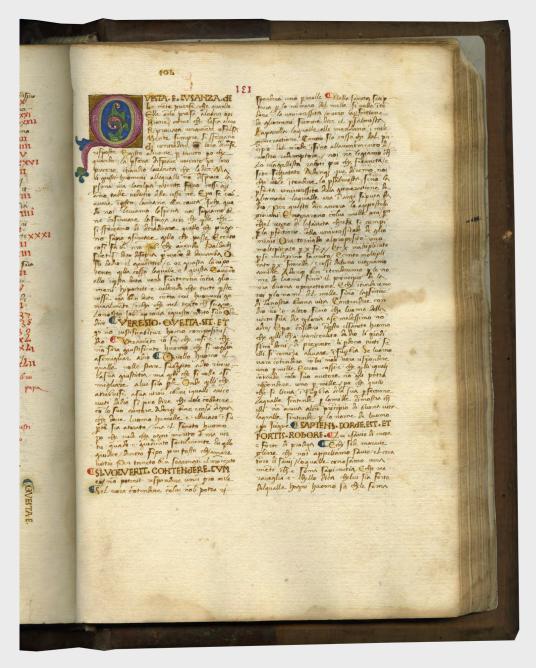


 $[5. \sim TM \ 1165]$ 

Full description and images available online



## 1474: MOONLIGHTING SCRIBE? "WRITTEN BY ME, ZUANE DE ZANE, JEWELER"



[6. ~ TM 796]

Full description and images available online

#### Carthusian Ordinarium for the Mass and Office

In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper Southern France (Méounes-les-Montrieux), November 15, 1544

#### 1544: MANUSCRIPTS IN THE POST-GUTENBERG AGE

**DESCRIPTION**: 96 folios on paper, complete, red initials, slight water damage on the first leaves, some stains and signs of use, modern half binding in cream-colored parchment over pasteboards. Dimensions 145 x 90 mm.

This handbook for the Carthusian liturgy for new priests was copied at a Carthusian charterhouse in Southern France and is



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securely dated in the scribal colophon at the end of part one: "With thanks to God, this day, November 15, 1544 at Montrieux." The charterhouse of Montrieux was the eighth house of the Carthusian Order, founded in 1137. Francesco Petrarch's brother, Gherardo, became a monk there in 1342, and it is still an active monastery. [TM 1181] \$11.000

Full description, images and video available online

#### 8.

#### ERCOLE CORAZZI, Euclide Restituto Sei Primi Libri

In Latin, illustrated manuscript on paper Northwestern Italy (Turin), 1721 Illustrated title page, frontispiece, and numerous geometric figures

## 1721: MADE UNDER THE AUTHOR'S SUPERVISION WITH A DATED TITLE PAGE

**DESCRIPTION:** 124 folios on paper, complete, geometric graphs illustrating the text on most pages, decorated title page and frontispiece some stains and water damage, contemporary brown calf binding, binding in fragile condition.

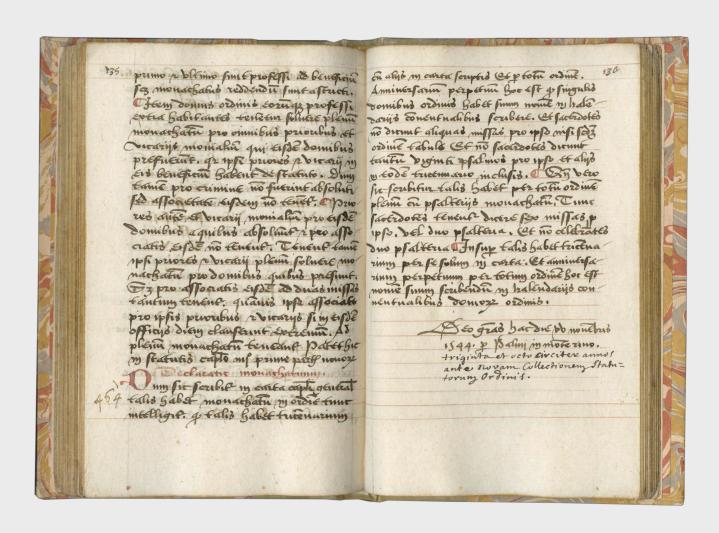
Dimensions 219 x 162 mm.



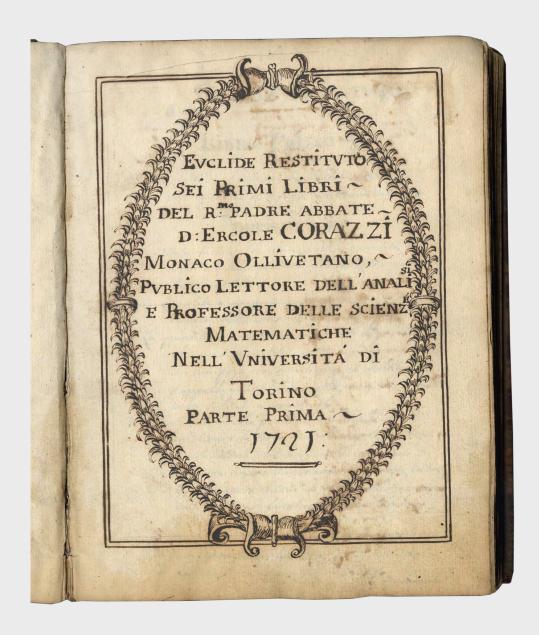
Medieval manuscripts don't have title pages, but this manuscript, copied in 1721, features quite an elaborate one. Its unpublished text, lectures on Euclid's *Elements*, is by the Italian mathematician Ercole Corazzi (1673-1726). Only one other copy of the work is known, in an earlier version. The amelioration of the text, the elegance of the script, the inclusion of an illustrated frontispiece that celebrates the achievements of Archimedes, and the elaborate title page demonstrate the importance of the present copy, produced under the supervision of the author. [TM 1162]

\$9,500

### 1544: MANUSCRIPTS IN THE POST-GUTENBERG AGE



## 1721: MADE UNDER THE AUTHOR'S SUPERVISION WITH A DATED TITLE PAGE



[8. ~ TM 1162]