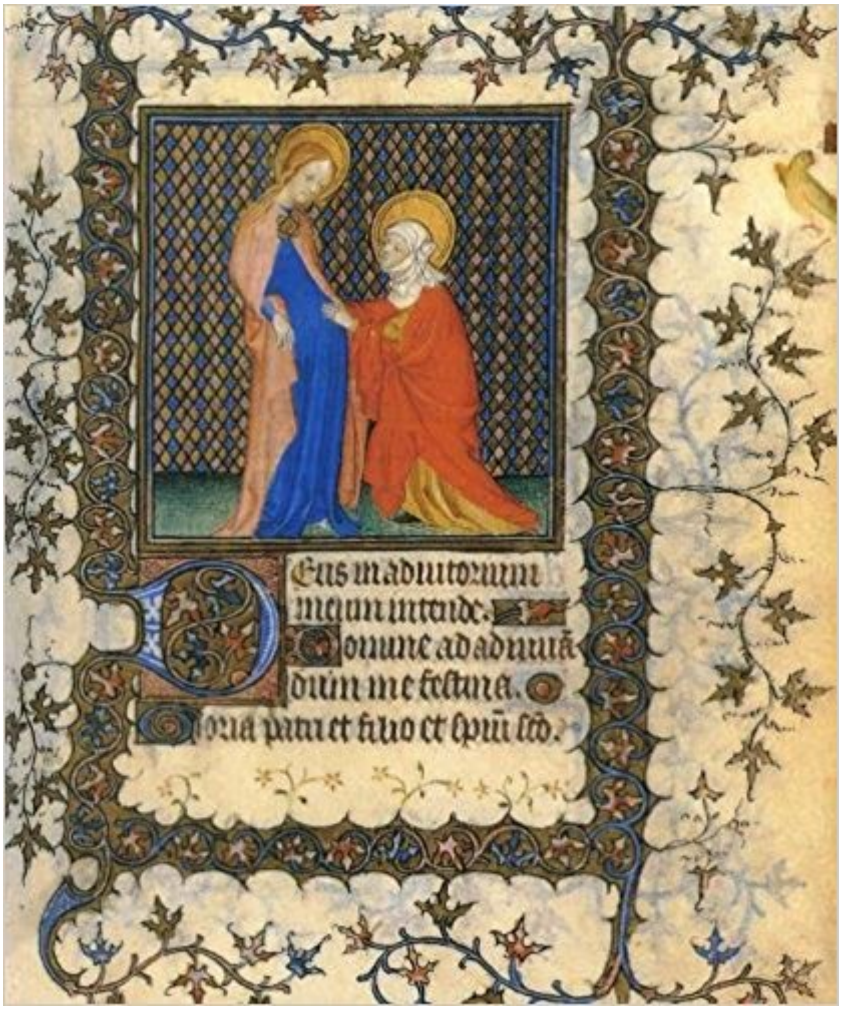
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Books Of Hours (Phaidon Miniature Editions)



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Synopsis

Originally an addition to the end of the Psalter or Book of Psalms, the first separate Book of Hours known in England was attributed to the artist William de Brailes between 1230 and 1260. By the end of the 13th century the Book of Hours had become a favourite prayerbook of ordinary people throughout Western Europe and in the years that followed its popularity spread. Often small and highly decorated, these books provide an insight into the daily life of the Middle Ages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On the Miniature Series "Real little treasures."-World of Interiors

Probably the most famous of all medieval manuscripts, a ’Book of Hours’ is a glittering compendium of different devotional texts, which by the end of the thirteenth century had become the favourite book of ordinary people throughout Western Europe.

The book is very small-about 4"x5", and the pictures themselves are even smaller, but they are all reproduced at their original size. One negative is that the plates (pictures) aren’t described on the page with the pictures-however, a description of what each one is about IS listed in the back of the book. BUT, I still give it a 5 because the pictures/plates are EXTREMELY beautiful and exquisite! There is so much detail, it’s incredible. The colors and designs are deep and complex. I DO use a

small magnifying glass to look at them, and as I mentioned, a description of each plate is available in the back of the book. At such a low price, this item is definitely worth buying if you love art and/or medieval times. I'm glad I bought it. It amazes me how much detail, time, and effort must have gone into the making of such impeccable miniatures.

This book precisely fits a particular niche in the needs of someone teaching Medieval books, remarkably inexpensive. Buy Two!There are dozens of excellent books on illustrated books of the pre-printing press late Medieval period, but, for what I had in mind, they all had one huge drawback. They were huge! They were classic art books, with quarto, or even folio sized pages, and glorious, oversized full color illustrations, and lots of great explanations. But, what I wanted was something which would be a reasonable facsimile to the true Medieval books of hours, psalters, and breviaries that I see in the Cloisters in NYC.I needed something I could pass around to a group during a class on the books of hours. I was so frustrated (I did see an ad for a facsimile of a Medieval illustrated Breviary, which cost close to 10,000 dollars. And they didn't even have the good sense to post a picture. To make a long story short, this volume is precisely what I wanted, at a rediculously low price. I agree with the reviewer who noted that the book should be able to lie open, flat. I suggest that the cost of this book is so small that I would consider buying a second copy, and rebinding my first copy, so that it does lie flat.

It was exactly as advertised, and arrived safe and sound and in a timely manner. Beautiful illustration copies, wish that the English titles were included on the pages instead of in a list at the back.

and its affordable. It's a good introduction to Books of Hours with examples from many different manuscripts presented in a nice format. (A quibble I had is that its hard to figure out which manuscript the various pages are from, the information is presented but not in the clearest way). The reproductions are more than satisfactory. There are better reproductions in other books but you pay more for them, too. I think that someone who liked high medieval art would love this book (I don't know why one of the previous reviewers thinks the art is from 'the Dark Ages'. That would be more like the Book of Kells--admittedly also not 'dark'). Even though I have several other reproductions of books of hours, I am hanging on to this one, and also planning to buy another as a gift for a friend.

In this tiny book are brought together a limited choice of the most exquisite medieval miniatures from 1230 (artist William de Brailes) until 1522. Other important artists are Jan Van Eyck, Jean Fouquet, and Simon Bening.Of course in large manuscripts most of the illuminations could hardly be called miniatures but were full blown paintings, so to speak, with their own set of aesthetic rules. The format of the Books of Hours are ideal to study miniatures. You will find in this little book (approximate the same size as the miniatures included) an amazing collection of breathtaking miniatures with very vivid and beautiful colors. It’s eye candy, I agree, but that made the Books of Hours popular in the Middle Ages. Let’s face it, the success of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages depended - for a substantial part - upon the cultural wealth that was displayed in churches and cathedrals, in the Vatican and its sumptuous Library, and in the Books of hours with their initials decorated with burnished gold.Indeed, you could say that the luminous colors of the miniatures in this collection are making the Dark Ages less dark.

Nice little book made like it was in the middle ages

I learned more from this little book than I did in an entire seminar on Books of Hours. Okay, maybe a bit of an exaggeration but not far. This little book packs a good amount of information and the images are stunning. It is tiny and I loved that I could carry it around in my purse. It felt like my own little book of hours.

Very small, thin paper, color plates very pale, and a little skewed.

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