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Book Of Hours: Illuminations By Simon Marmion



Synopsis

Books of Hours are among the most striking examples of medieval illuminated manuscripts. Commissioned by wealthy men and women for their private religious devotions, these beautifully decorated books contain prayers for the eight canonical hours of the day. This book reproduces seventeen jewel-like miniature paintings by Simon Marmion from one of the finest Books of Hours in the Huntington Library's collections. Marmion, one of the most accomplished illuminators of the fifteenth century, produced this example sometime between 1450 and 1475. The French manuscript Book of Hours displays a number of scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. The book's introduction discusses the history and meaning of Books of Hours, both as books of devotion and as works of art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James Thorpe is a distinguished scholar and former director of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens from 1966-1983. He was Professor of English at Princeton for many years and has written numerous works on authors from Chaucer to Wallace Stevens. He is now a Senior Research Associate at the Huntington.

This book fulfilled all my hopes. It makes me hungry of seeing the originals, to buy something so deliciously done. It shows with grace and information several of the most exquisite illustrations from books of hours of our ancestors. We often call the middle ages a time of darkness and ignorance.

But certainly in those times some of the most exquisite and perennial works were done, and I am thinking also about cathedrals, and others of the same kind. I thank the authors and for making this available at such small prices. Why am I not giving the topmost classification? I just would like to have it more and more of the same. So keep giving us more of the same, and some kind of Manual about these kind of works and authors, and about the art of doing it. Congratulations!

So this isn't quite what I thought it was. I thought it was a prayer book with the illustrations, and instead it has a small quote and an illustration on each page. Looks nice, it's very small, not very thick. Wished it was more like the historical book of hours. But it was still neat and the images do look very nice. It's a hard back book as well

This is a gem of a book for the variety of examples of manuscripts. I bought it 2 years ago and refer back to it repeatedly, browsing, and enjoying the reproductions. Some of the colour is off a bit, some examples are very clear with good colour, being able to see some of the brush strokes if your so inclined to the study of illumination. A good buy for the price.

I feel very proud to have it. I use it to show-off with my friends who are dying of envy! Extraordinary edition. Love it.

very pretty

Although the introduction is well worth reading, this book is more about high quality reproductions of stunning images from one of the highly decorated illuminated manuscripts. It may not have a huge number of images, but the quality and complexity is such that I highly recommend this book for people who want to stare at something extraordinarily beautiful.

Just what I hoped for--beautiful graphics with a good explanatory text.

I purchased this as a gift from my son's "Wish List". He was very happy to receive it and said it was what he had anticipated. I was happy for the prompt shipping, esp. before Christmas. Thanks.

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