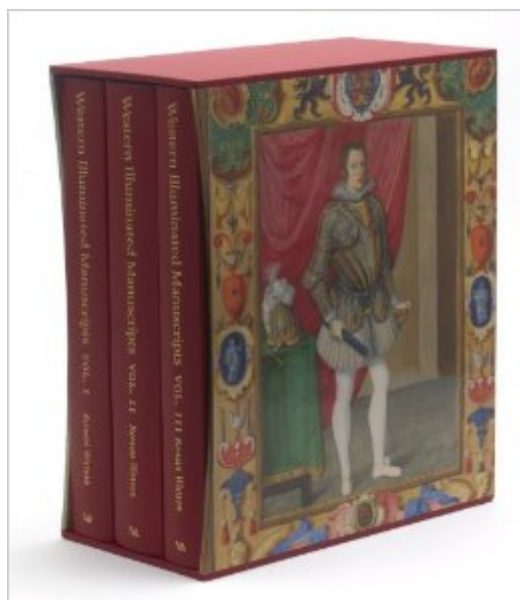


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Western Illuminated Manuscripts In The Victoria And Albert Museum



Synopsis

This lush, three-volume slipcased set catalogues the V&A's superb collection of Western illuminated manuscripts. Providing a history of an art form spanning eight centuries as an integral part of the decorative arts, it documents not only the practice of medieval and Renaissance illumination, but also the survival of medieval bookmaking crafts alongside printing in the post-Renaissance period and their revival in the 19th century. The three volumes bring together for the first time works such as the St. Denis Missal of 1350 and the Chambord Missal of 1844, the Sanvito Petrarch of 1463 and William Morris's Book of Verse of 1870. Catalogue descriptions discuss each work in detail and pay particular attention to the changing ways in which they have been evaluated and used through the centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I initially saw this set in a bookshop in Bangkok but was daunted by its size, weight and expense. A month later my instincts urged me to take the plunge and buy it. I am delighted that I did. What impressed me enormously was the superb quality of the printing and presentation to be found in the three volumes contained in this set. In particular the book lover should be thrilled by the beautiful and accurate color reproductions of the illuminated manuscripts. It is worth remembering that all illustrations are in color and importantly, they are generously sized and sometimes there are enlargements. Particularly the gold is shown with great clarity. Superior quality paper is also used in this release. I suspected the book was printed in Italy or Belgium; imagine my surprise to note it was

sourced from China. Well done! The intention of this catalog is to present an overview of the western illuminated manuscripts possessed by the Victoria and Albert Museum. The scope of the manuscripts featured range from the medieval period to the late nineteenth century. The first 2 volumes have the expected assortments of breviaries, missals, graduals, books of hours and other prayer books. The last volume contains various secular manuscripts such as doctoral certificates, calligraphic writing books and so forth. Also featured is William Morris's charming Book of Verse (1870). The quality of the 287 catalogued items are generally of great beauty and interest and the layout is superb. This luxury set weighs a hernia inducing 21 pounds and will require a sizable space to display. It is also expensive (the price has risen since my set was purchased). I am nevertheless thrilled with my investment and recommend it highly to enthusiasts of illuminated manuscripts and of fine publishing.

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