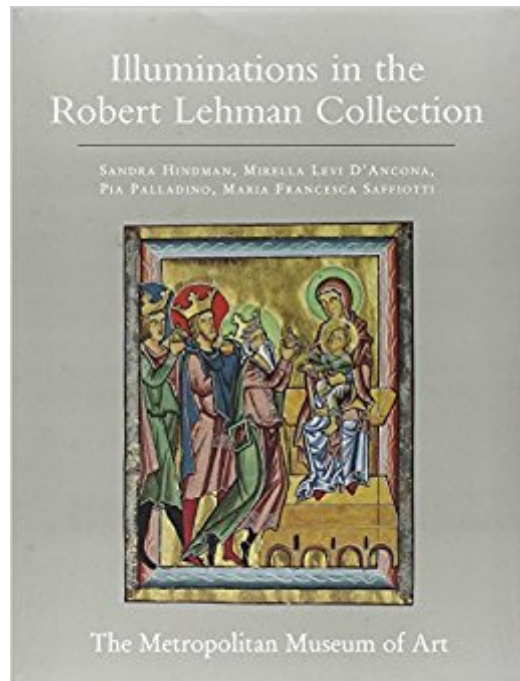




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The Robert Lehman Collection At The Metropolitan Museum Of Art



Synopsis

This book presents the exceptional group of illuminations in the Robert Lehman Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The miniatures and cuttings from medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in this collection represent the major schools of illumination that flourished in Europe from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. Robert Lehman (1892-1969), one of the great private art collectors of the twentieth century, collected these illuminations as an extension of his remarkable collection of early European paintings and drawings. Among the works catalogued here are a miniature by Simon Marmion--the "prince d'enluminure"--painted for a Breviary for Charles the Bold and Margaret of York, and, among the Italian illuminations, a Last Judgment in an Initial C by the great Florentine painter Lorenzo Monaco and an Adoration of the Magi by Francesco Marmitta. A Self-Portrait by Simon Bening and a Virgin and Child by Francesco Morone are early examples of small paintings on parchment conceived as independent works of art rather than as illustrations for manuscripts. Also here are a leaf painted for the Hours of Etienne Chevalier by Jean Fouquet, the most celebrated French painter of the fifteenth century, and a miniature Holy Face by Gerard David that was possibly created as an independent devotional image. All the illuminations in the Robert Lehman Collection are reproduced in color, and copious comparative illustrations supplement the extensive catalogue entries. This is the seventh in a projected series of sixteen volumes that will catalogue the entire Robert Lehman Collection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sandra Hindman is Professor of Art History at Northwestern University. Mirella Levi D'Ancona is Professor Emerita at Hunter College, City University of New York. Pia Palladino is Research Associate in the Robert Lehman Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Maria Francesca Saffiotti is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

There are 26 items in this catalogue that are studied in great detail. Most are single sheets cut from a manuscript sometime in the past and others may be separate works of art. There is a leaf for the Hours of Etienne Chevalier by Jean Fouquet a famous 15th century French artist. A miniature for "the Breviary of Charles the Bald and Margaret of York (Burgundy) by Simon Marmion. There are also examples by Lorenzo Monaco, Francesco Marinetta, Simon Bening and others. Each item is reproduced in excellent colour and there are also some details in colour. I know a few artists from their paintings but not their illuminations but these appear as beautiful pieces of art. If you already know a bit about manuscripts then this may well suit you. You wouldn't pick it as one of your first books on manuscript illumination. There is the excellent inexpensive series from the Getty and the other is the older series from George Braziller publisher Getty. Illuminated Manuscripts of Germany and Central Europe, Illuminated Manuscripts from Belgium and the Netherlands and several other titles in the series. The Braziller /Thames and Hudson is older and excellent. It is wide ranging. I have 10 to 15 of them. I mention a few. Late Antique and Early Christian Book Illustration. The Golden Age- Manuscript painting at the time of Jean ,Duc de Berry. Italian Renaissance illumination. Royal Persian Manuscripts. Etc etc. Both series are very well illustrated with excellent plates. The Getty volumes have a brief introduction to the illustrations. The other series has a good introduction and good text to go with the illustration. Once you have your eye in try some other books- one warning. Good books on Manuscript Illumination tend to be pretty expensive because of the high quality of the colour reproductions. This is an interesting catalogue that will appeal to those who know a moderate amount about manuscript illumination.

This book has twenty-seven illuminations and includes illustrations for manuscripts and early instances of small paintings on parchment conceived as independent works of art. Very good book.

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