



0. Illuminated Manuscripts - Story Preface

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Photograph of an illuminated manuscript, "The opening of the Sixth Seal," from the *Morgan Beatus*, 10th Century. Maintained by the Morgan Library and Museum, New York. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*The work of writing makes one lose his sight,
it hunches his back, it breaks ribs and bothers
the stomach, it pains the kidneys and causes
aches throughout the body. Therefore, you the
reader, turn the pages carefully and keep your
fingers from the letters, because just as hail
destroys the fields, the useless reader erases
the text and destroys the book.*

Munnio and Dominico

Monastery at Silos

April 18, 1091

On completing a copy of the "Silos Apocalypse"

As the 8th century approached its close, people thought the end of the world was near. Those fears prompted Beatus of Liébana to compile a *Commentary on the Apocalypse*.

In the centuries which followed, monks created many illustrations to accompany Beatus' words, originally written at the Monastery of San Pedro de Cardena, in the northern Spanish province of Burgos. About 32 manuscripts and fragments remain, spanning the 9th to the 13th centuries.

One of those illustrations - from a 12th century copy of the commentary - is "The Seventh Angel of the Apocalypse Proclaiming the Reign of the Lord." In that same commentary, illustrated in approximately 1150, we also find "Locusts Come upon the Earth." (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.)

When one considers how long it has been since monks illuminated manuscripts, it is nearly impossible to believe that thousands of stunning illustrations (often referred to as "miniatures") survive.

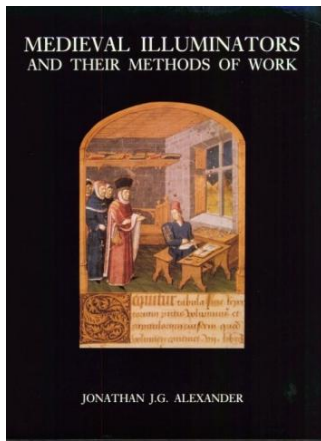
Thanks to the generosity of universities, libraries and museums which have provided scans of these treasures (or their facsimiles) for on-line public review, we can examine artistic beauty from centuries past.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Illuminated-Manuscripts>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Illuminated-Manuscripts>

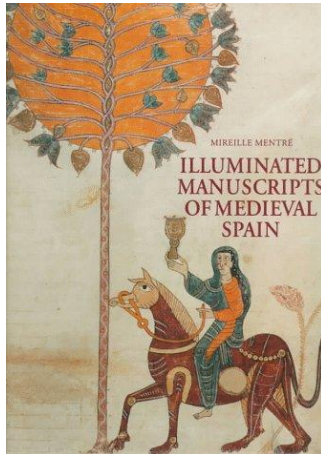


Medieval Illuminators and Their Methods of Work

Image online, courtesy the amazon.com website.

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Illuminated Manuscripts of Medieval Spain - by Mireille Mentre

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San Pedro de Cardena

Image online, courtesy the panoramio.com website.

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Map Depicting the Province of Burgos

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Seventh Angel of the Apocalypse

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

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Locusts Come Upon the Earth

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

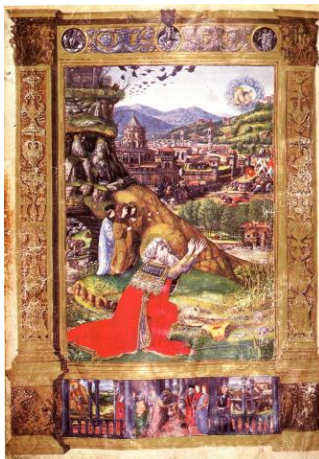
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Illumination Example

Image online, courtesy palazzo-medici.it website.

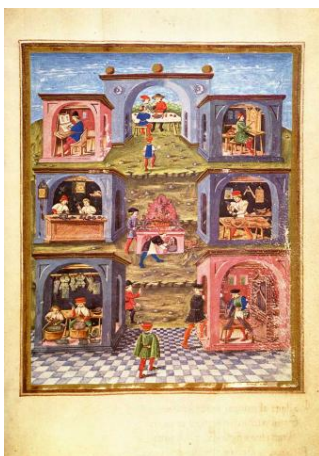
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Stunning Illumination

Image online, courtesy the Web Gallery of Art website.

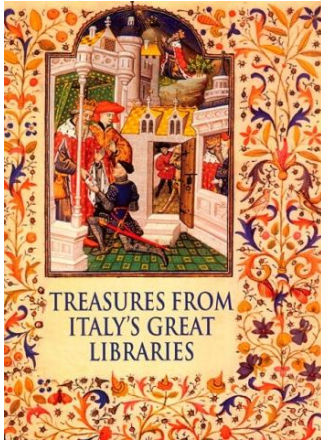
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Beauty of the Illuminations

Image online, courtesy the frichtiweb.com website.

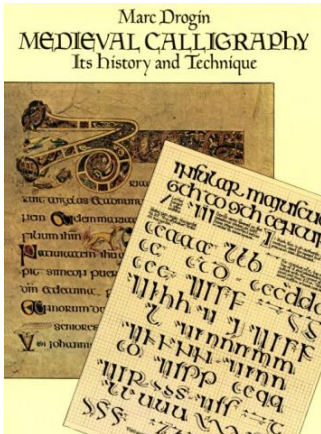
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Treasures From Italy's Great Libraries

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Medieval Calligraphy Its History and Technique

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Illuminated Manuscripts

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