

Morris Nellerhoe Illuminated Manuscripts

Collection Summary

Identifier:	MA 59
Title:	Morris Nellerhoe Illuminated Manuscripts
Dates:	13 th Century, 1440-1496
Extent:	1.58 linear feet (1 oversize box)
Creator:	Nellerhoe, Morris Elmer, Jr.
Language:	English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 59, box number, folder number, Morris Nellerhoe Illuminated Manuscripts, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The Morris Elmer Nellerhoe, Jr. Collection consists of five illuminated manuscript leaves dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries. The leaves contain religious texts written on vellum and represent examples of medieval manuscript production associated with the Biblia Sacra Latina (Vulgate Bible) and the Hours of the Virgin, a devotional section of the Book of Hours widely used in medieval Christian practice.

One leaf originates from a 13th century Biblia Sacra Latina and features handwritten Latin text with wide margins, red and blue chapter numerals, historiated and illuminated initials, and penwork ornamentation. The remaining four leaves date to the 15th century and are associated with the Hours of the Virgin. These leaves originate from manuscript traditions in

France, Flanders and Paris and include rubricated and historiated initials, decorative borders and ornamentation in red, blue and gold. One leaf is a printed incunabula page produced in 1496 by Philippe Pigouchet for Simon Vostre.

The leaves were acquired from the estate of Morris Elmer Nellermeoe, Jr., a translator and language instructor who obtained the items from Ferdinand Roten Galleries in Baltimore. The collection provides examples of medieval religious manuscript production and devotional literature and offers research value for the study of medieval book arts, illumination and the transmission of Christian liturgical texts.

Biography

Morris Nellermeoe was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and graduated from Watertown High School in 1944. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946 and earned a B.A. (1950) and M.A. (1952) from the University of South Dakota. He also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and the Internationale Musik Akademie in Salzburg, Austria. Nellermeoe worked as a translator for various organizations, including the United Nations, and later taught foreign languages at Colorado State University. He acquired the illuminated manuscript leaves from Ferdinand Roten Galleries in Baltimore.

Scope and Content

The H.M. Briggs Library holds five illuminated manuscript leaves, or single pages, consisting of religious texts dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries. One leaf is from the *Biblia Sacra Latina* (Vulgate Bible), handwritten on vellum and dating to the 13th century. It features wide margins, red and blue chapter numerals, historiated and illuminated initials, and intricate penwork ornamentation.

The remaining four leaves are from the Hours of the Virgin, a section of the Book of Hours, a devotional text widely used during the Middle Ages. These 15th-century vellum leaves originate from France, Flanders, and Paris, with one printed incunabula leaf produced by Philippe Pigouchet for Simon Vostre in 1496. The leaves include rubricated and historiated initials, decorative borders, and elaborate ornamentation in red, blue, and gold. The Hours of the Virgin, also known as the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, includes prayers, hymns, psalms, and lessons said at each of the eight canonical hours. The leaves were acquired from the estate of Morris Elmer Nellermeoe, Jr. (1926–2004).

Access Points

Subjects

- Illumination of books and manuscripts, Medieval
- Book of hours

Names

- Nellerhoe, Morris Elmer, Jr.
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Conditions Governing Access

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Hours of the Virgin, Vellum, Flemish	1440-1450
1	2	Hours of the Virgin, Vellum, France	1450
1	3	Hours of the Virgin, Vellum, France	1450-1460
1	4	Hours of the Virgin, Vellum, woodcut borders, Paris	1496
1	5	Biblia Sacra Latina, Vellum, Paris	13 th century