



# A History of Illuminated Manuscripts

*By Christopher De Hamel*

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Illuminated manuscripts are perhaps the most beautiful treasures to survive from the middle ages. This authoritative volume provides a comprehensive introduction to the medieval world of books, their production and their consumption. The text divides this world into different groups of readers and writers: missionaries, emperors, monks, students, aristocrats, priests, collectors and the general public. De Hamel is both informative and immensely readable, and the sumptuous illustrations render this book too good to be missed.

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## **A History of Illuminated Manuscripts By Christopher De Hamel Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #93228 in Books
- Brand: Phaidon Press
- Published on: 1997-09-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.50" h x 1.25" w x 10.00" l, 3.73 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This 1986 title throws light on the world of illuminated manuscripts, which function as works of both art and literature. De Hamel provides a full history of the illuminated manuscript through text and dozens of glorious color illustrations.

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Review

"It is no mere history, but an original, lively and richly illustrated commentary."-Times Literary Supplement

"Gorgeous and informative. A wonderful introduction to handwritten books from the Dark Ages to the invention of printing in the fifteenth century."-Houston Chronicle "Lavish, beautiful and sweeping look at the beginning of the printed word."-Graphic Arts Monthly "Along with excellent illustrations, this large volume includes a bibliography and index of manuscripts."-The Good Book Guide

About the Author

Christopher de Hamel is a Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. For many years he was head of the Western Manuscripts department at Sotheby's in London. He is the author of *The Book: A History of the Bible*, also published by Phaidon, which has become established as a definitive work and magnum opus in itself.

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