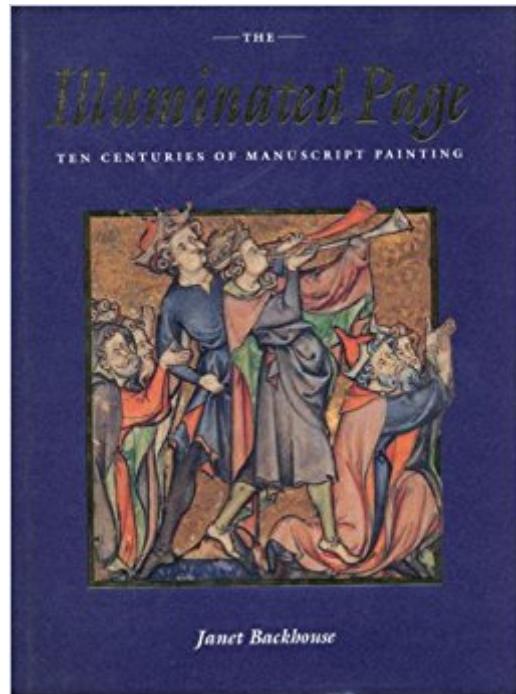


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# The Illuminated Page: Ten Centuries Of Manuscript Painting In The British Library



## Synopsis

Illuminated manuscripts are among the richest and most revealing relics of the pre-print Western world, and are central to our understanding of medieval social and cultural history. The British Library boasts the world's finest collection of medieval manuscripts, and in this new and lavishly illustrated survey, Janet Backhouse draws on these collections to provide a comprehensive introduction to these exciting and colourful materials. The manuscripts featured include bestiaries, psalters, Bibles, books of hours, and medical and herbal collections that originated in workrooms as geographically diverse as the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria and the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem. There is also a great chronological diversity among the selected manuscripts, with examples ranging from the seventh century AD and the Lindisfarne Gospels to early Renaissance offerings. Each of the almost 220 illuminations presented are accompanied by a caption and have been reproduced in colour. Many of the images chosen have been reproduced here for the first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Best "bang for the buck" period illumination book on the market. Every page is crammed with beautiful, clear color photos of ten centuries of period illumination styles. There are 'leaves' and 'hours' in there that I have never seen before. Best of all (and unlike other books I could name) it's affordable and within the reach of the true 'starving artist' (and it's about time).

What can I say? I have been researching this specific field now for the last five years, and rarely find such a magnificent reproduction as this! Excellent job on the colour balance, and many miniatures I have not seen in any other books. Well done.

This is one of the best books on illuminated manuscripts currently available. The book is hardcover, full color throughout, and many nice reproductions. There is a nice variety in the work shown and good commentary. If you get this at the discounted price, this is a hard book to beat in quantity and quality. Along with *A History of Illuminated Manuscripts* this is a must-have book.

What a marvellous collection of *Illustrated Manuscripts*. A couple of other reviewers stated that this was one of the best books of this kind ever published. I certainly have no dispute with them as it is the best I've seen. Going through this book gives one the feeling of viewing the greatest illustrated books that were the domain of the rich and powerful from the 7th. Century to the 17th. Century. Unless you were of that class, you had little chance of ever seeing, touching and certainly no chance whatsoever of owning one of these books. Until the Gutenberg press of the 1450's there were no printed books, which meant that any book had to be drawn and lettered printed by hand, taking years of painstaking and highly talented work. Hence, they were extremely expensive and available to the very few. Even someone who owned or had access to books like these, even they would be very lucky if they saw more than a few in their lifetime. In this book we get to see hundreds of the manuscripts from literally hundreds of these rare masterpieces. They come from all over Europe and from a span of roughly a thousand years. It's amazing to think that in the 14th. Century, it was possible to build massive Cathedrals; but a book like this for the masses was not even imaginable.

There were great manuscript illustrations but they were so small that the details were lost. The layout wasted a lot of space with empty white areas that could have been better used to enlarge the photo so you could actually see the illustrations.

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