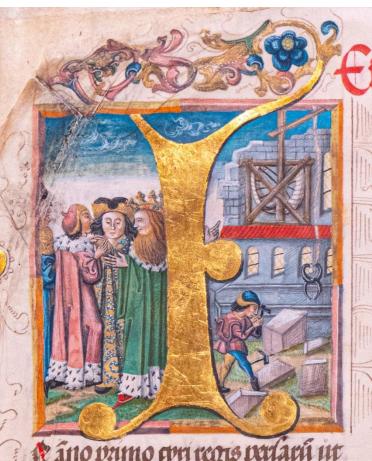


# 10 Manuscripts

from the Schøyen Collection Autumn 2023



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# Stephen Butler Rare Books & Manuscripts

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Stephen Butler







## Introduction

The 10 manuscripts in this catalogue all come from the extensive collection of Martin Schøyen and range from early Beneventan and Carolingian through to early C16th. They are each bound in the trademark cloth boards with endpapers and the individual manuscript number within the personalised roundel (and the Augustine gathering housed in a slipcase).

Each of the manuscripts here has been through the auction houses over the past years and have been stored in the United Kingdom since their purchase by Dr. Schøyen.



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# Complete gathering of Augustine's Letters, France, early C11th

1. Augustine, Epistulae, in Latin, single gathering from a fine Romanesque manuscript on parchment; *France (northern France, perhaps Loire valley), eleventh century*.

Single gathering of 8 leaves, with single column of 29-31 lines in a good Romanesque hand that leans slightly to the right, with a tongued 'e', pronounced wedging to ascenders, and very few abbreviations, headings in ornamental capitals whose form shows their strong debt to Carolingian minuscule, these lined through in red penwork, 2-line initials in simple brown, blue or red, these infilled with dark teal green or red wash (sometimes together in compartments), or occasionally dark blue on own, the gathering stitched with later coloured thread, one small tear to edge repaired, fol. 6 trimmed with losses to marginalia, damage to outer upright edges of leaves on some leaves (perhaps rodent damage), slightly cockled overall, else excellent condition, 250 x 160mm.; in fitted slipcase within cloth-covered box

#### Provenance:

- 1. Written and decorated in northern France in the early eleventh century, perhaps in the Loire valley, and doubtless for a monastic or cathedral centre.
- 2. Maggs Bros. of London, cat. 1110 (1990), no. 1.3. Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 663, acquired from Maggs in June 1990.

### Text and script:

While the contributions of the Confessions and City of God of St. Augustine of Hippo (354-422) to the early Church are well known, the impact of his letters is often overlooked. Some 254 letters of his survive, written to a variety of correspondents over forty years from the 380s to his death in 430. Augustine greatly valued this method of conversation with those geographically distant from him, and in fact some correspondents such as Jerome he would never meet in person and knew only through their letters. These letters were diligently collected by him, but not included in his listing of his own works, the *Retractationes*, as they were most probably to be the subject of another catalogue, which unfortunately he died before he could begin. Possidius, his friend and a fellow bishop, listed them on Augustine's death alongside his unlisted sermons, in the *Indiculum*, most probably working through the documents sorted into piles by Augustine himself before his death. They are intensely personal documents, and



it is through them that we come closest to meeting Augustine the man, rather than the polished author. They were essential reading in religious communities throughout medieval Europe, but very few manuscripts contain anything like a comprehensive corpus, and all known manuscripts before the thirteenth century

divide into three main groups, with the order of the letters included here indicating that it follows the tradition represented by BnF. ms 12226 (Corbie, ninth century) and 12193 (Loire valley, c. 900).

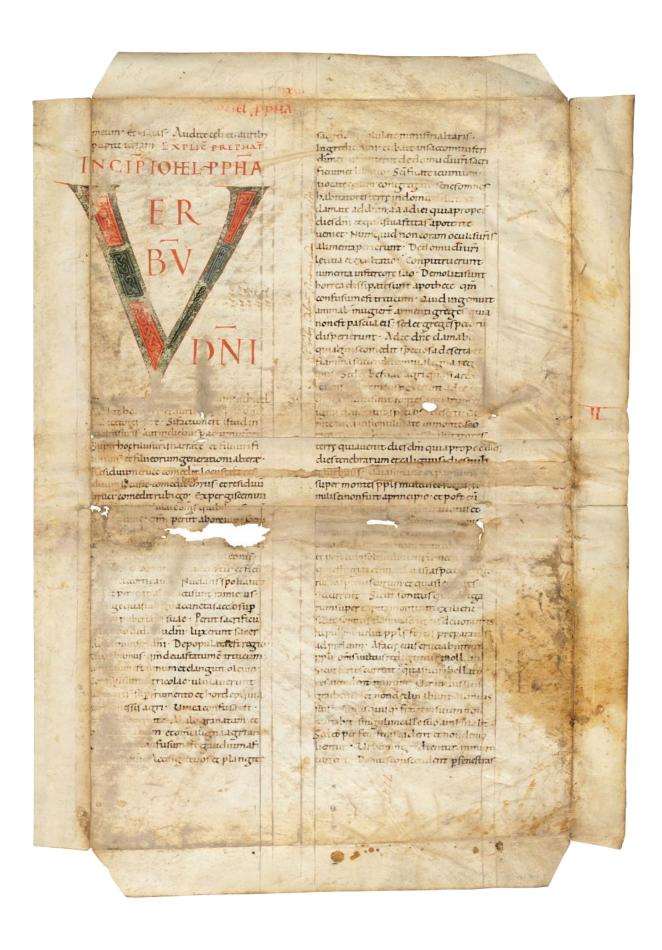
The letters here are: (i) letter to Valerius, bishop of Hippo, probably written soon after Augustine was ordained to become Valerius' assistant (and eventual successor as bishop), in this letter Augustine confesses to his unworthiness for this course, and how his pride further hampered him (fol. 1r; J.P. Migne, *Patrologia Latina* 33, no. 21); (ii) letter to Aurelius, Deacon and later bishop of Carthage, Augustine's closest friend, written c. 392 and on the subject of Aurelius' attacking of sin in the north African Church, including drunkenness during the veneration of saints' tombs (fol. 2v; no. 22); (iii) letter to the same Aurelius, written in 401, discussing the heresy of the Donatists (fol. 4v; Migne, no. 60); (iv) letter to Alypsius, bishop of Tagaste, an old friend, written in 428-429, and relating the miracle of Dioscurus' conversion and his twice reneging of that religious oath (fol. 5r; Migne, no. 227); (v) letter to Eudoxius, abbot of a monastery on an island between Corsica and Tuscany, written in 398 (fol. 5r; Migne, no. 48); (vi) letter to Celestine, bishop of Rome, written c. 418 when Celestine was still a deacon (fol. 6r; Migne, no. 192); (vii) letter to the inhabitants of Augustinus' see of Hippo, wants ending (fol. 6v; Migne, no. 78). The angularity of the script and its continued use of numerous Carolingian letterforms is characteristic of French hands in the eleventh century, and perhaps even those of more provincial centres, such as the Loire valley (cf. Tours, Bibliothèque municipale, ms. 924, a copy of Terence produced in the Loire Valley in the first quarter of the twelfth century: W. Cahn, Romanesque Manuscripts in the Twelfth Century, 1996, no. 11). Similarly, the use of rich colours to infill initials, such as the teal green here, probably points to Carolingian models (cf. the Histories of Pompey Trogue, made in Corbie c. 800, for this common style: reproduced in *Trésor carolingiens*, 2007, no. 25), and the scribe

and decorator of the present leaves probably followed a now lost Carolingian exemplar carrying over parts of the script and decoration.

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Item 1



Item 2

# A very large leaf probably from a Giant 'Atlantic' Bible and virtually the complete text of the Book of Joel

### 2 A leaf from an illuminated Giant Atlantic Bible (or 'Bibbia Atlantica').

Large decorated initial on a leaf from an Atlantic Bible, in Latin, illuminated manuscript on vellum; *Italy, probably Rome, middle or third quarter 11th century.* 

A single leaf, blind-ruled for 2 columns of 51 lines written in a good Caroline minuscule, ruled space circa  $420 \times 270$  mm, with one rubric in Rustic Capitals, another and the incipit in Square Capitals, illuminated with a very large (16-line) initial 'V' filled with panels of interlace ornament, chapter divisions not originally emphasised, chapter numbers added in margins, recovered from use as a book-cover and thus with typical damage including folds and creases, a few holes and sewing punctures, the outer corners cropped, the recto with considerable wear and staining but the verso generally clean and very legible.

circa 570 × 400 mm,

#### Provenance

- 1. Probably written and decorated at Rome, to judge by the analysis of stylistic evolution described in the introductory chapter of K. Berg, Studies in Tuscan Twelfth-Century Illumination, 1968.
- 2. Chapter numbers added in the margins perhaps in the 12th century (they do not correspond to the early 13th century divisions devised by Stephen Langton, and adopted in the 'Paris' Bible) at Joel 2:1 and 2:28; a running heading 'Johel p(ro)ph(et)a' and folio number 'cxxii', both in red in the upper margin of the recto, perhaps added at the same time.
- 3. Dismembered doubtless in the mid-16th century for use as scrap vellum by a bookbinder, inscribed with a pen-trial 'Non habui calumum scrib[ ... ] melius isto' and a series of five dates from 1550 to 1562.
- 4. Probably removed from a printed book in the 19th century and inscribed in pencil (partly erased) '[ ... ] Saec. Xo'.
- 5. Mark Lansburgh (d.2013), teacher, hand-press printer, and manuscripts collector; not included in the 1962 Supplement to de Ricci's Census, and thus presumably acquired at a later date.
- 6. Bruce Ferrini (d. 2010), sold in March 1989 to:
- 7. Schøyen Collection, Oslo and London, their MS 216.

#### Text

The text comprises the last two lines of a prologue (Stegmüller no 511), and Joel 1:1–3:7 (i.e. the entire book except for the last 14 verses). Jeremy Griffiths observed in 1990 that the readings in the preface 'percipite' for 'percipe', and 'meum' for 'meo', are recorded together only in one of the manuscripts collated by Donatien de Bruyne (Préfaces de la Bible Latine, 1920, p.137): St Gall, MS 44, an 8th century copy of the biblical Prophets with an inscription by Johannes, Abbot of St Gall from 760 to 781.

## Script

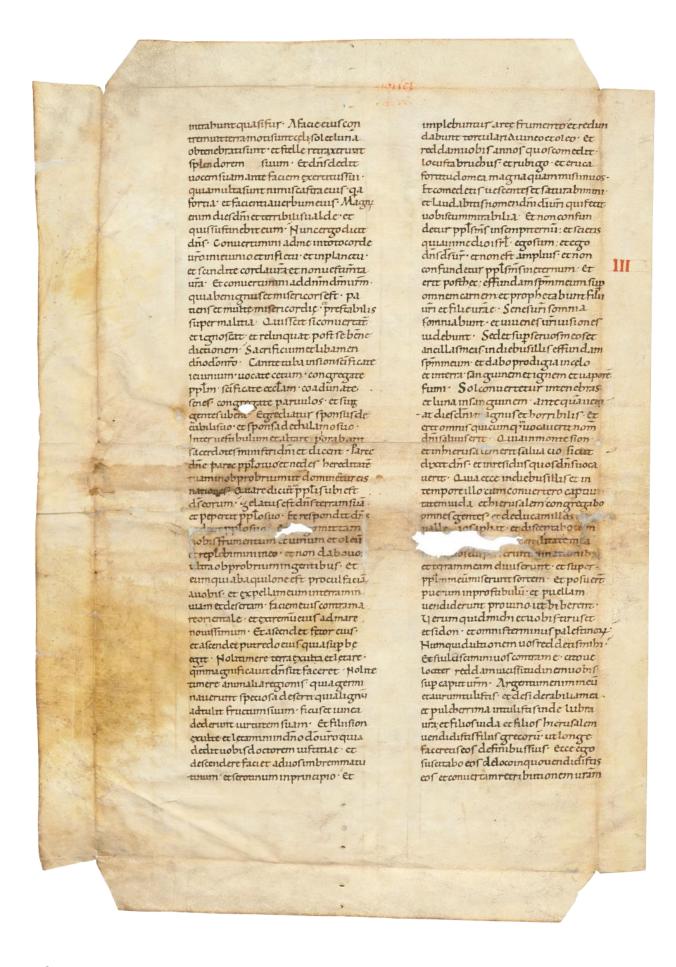
The main text is in a fine Caroline minuscule, characterised by the use of tall 's' to the exclusion of the round form, except as a majuscule at the beginning of a word, or at the end of a line; minuscule 'f', 's', and 'r' which descend slightly below the other letters; 'g' with a closed lower bowl; 'z' like a large numeral '3'; and the absence of the ampersand and tironian nota for 'et'.

#### Illumination

Academic consensus has it that the phenomenon of producing large-format biblical manuscripts originated in Rome, under the papal aegis, as a means of promulgating Gregorian church reform in the 11th and 12th centuries (although for an argument as to why this theory is too reductive, see L. Yawn, '*The Italian Giant Bible, Lay Patronage and Professional Workmanship*', Les usages sociaux de la Bible, XIe-XVe siècles, CEHTL, 3, Paris, 2010). The 'hollow shaft', 'early geometrical' style (according to the terminology of Edward B. Garrison) of the initial in the present leaf and the bright palette of reds and greens, suggests a Roman production of the second half of the 11th century.

Stylistic comparisons may be drawn with a number of other central Italian Atlantic Bibles in institutional collections: Genoa, Biblioteca civica Berio, M.R. Cf 3.7; R.

£15,000



Item 2

# An early bifolium from 'The Life of Saint Stephen', Germany c.1100



3 **Bifolium from a Vita Sancti Stephani**, including an abridgement of Evodius, Miracula Facta Uzali, in Latin, decorated manuscript on vellum; *Germany (perhaps Rhineland), c. 1100* 

Bifolium (consecutive leaves and hence innermost leaves of a gathering), each leaf with single column of 30 lines of a rounded proto-gothic minuscule, with slightly tremulous aspect, an ampersand whose loops sit high above the baseline and trailing undulating penstrokes at beginning of some capitals, one large initial 'V' in red, reused in binding and hence slightly trimmed at foot of both leaves (text wanting at beginning and end), overall good condition with marginal prickings for ruling present., 220 x 170mm; in cloth-covered binding.

#### Provenance:

- 1. Dr. Helmuth Wallach (1901-1989), of Munich and New York, the eminent antiquarian bookseller and art dealer.
- 2. Bernard Rosenthal (1920-2017), of San Francisco, California, his I/211, acquired in 1970.
- 3. Quaritch cat. 1147, Bookhands of the Middle Ages V, 1991, no. 87.
- 4. Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 633, acquired June 1990.

### Text and script:

While many of the letterforms here echo those of late Carolingian manuscripts, the script compares most closely to those of the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries (cf. the Augustine, Commentary on Genesis, of the first half of the twelfth century, now Cologne, Dom Hs. 61: reproduced *Glaube und Wissen im Mittelalter*, 1998, no. 27, especially the form of the ampersand).

£3,500

## Augustine Enarrationes in Psalmos, for Psalm 41:6-8, England c.1150

4 Leaf from Augustine, Enarrationes in Psalmos, for Psalm 41:6-8, in Latin, from large manuscript on vellum; *England, mid-twelfth century*.

Complete single leaf, with double column of 39 lines in a formal and angular proto-gothic bookhand, with pronounced wedges to ascenders and a residual ct-ligature, pale red rubrics, English pencil notes on text in lower margin of recto, recovered from a binding and so darkened on verso, and small scuffs, folds and holes, overall good and presentable condition with wide and clean margins, and on heavy parchment, 390 x 260mm.; in cloth-covered binding

#### Provenance:

- 1. Alan G. Thomas (1911-1992), London bookseller.
- 2. Leeds' Public Library; de-accessioned and sold by auction, Phillips, 28 Feb. 1990, lot 54.
- 3. Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 659, acquired from Sam Fogg, London, in June 1990.

**Text and script:** The *Enarrationes in Psalmos* is the longest of Augustine's major works; measuring twice the length of his more well-known *De Civitate Dei*. It was composed between 392 and 418 as a long series of sermons and perhaps copied down initially by secretaries as Augustine actively preached. The script here is a fine example of an English proto-gothic bookhand from the period of the shift between the final phase of the Romanesque and the beginning of the early Gothic.

£3,750

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Sato Aurelia Haguntini Enarrationes 115659 XII Centy (English) is Palmor

# Large decorated manuscript, England c.1200 in handsome gothic script

5. Leaf from a commentary on Matthew 2:11-18, in Latin, from a large decorated manuscript on vellum; *England, c. 1200* 

Single leaf, with double column of 45 lines in a handsome English gothic bookhand, capitals touched in red and sometimes with leafy vine-stem terminals, one small red initial, marginalia including diagrams for the words "fuga" and "Moratus", recovered from a binding and with staining to margins on recto, some tears to edges of leaves and small holes, overall in fair and presentable condition, 345 x 245mm.; in cloth-covered binding.

#### Provenance:

- 1. The presence of punctus flexus punctuation indicates an origin in a Cistercian community, somewhere in England at the end of the twelfth century and the opening of the thirteenth.
- 2. Sotheby's, 12 November 1987, lot 12.
- 3. Bernard Rosenthal (1920-2017), San Francisco, California, I/266 (1987).
- 4. Quaritch cat. 1088, Bookhands of the Middle Ages III, 1988, no. 65.
- 5. Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 107, acquired June 1988.

#### Text:

This text is a compilation of other commentaries, including those of Anselm of Laon (1050-1117) and the *Historia Scholastica* of Peter Comestor (1100-78; signalled with the marginal note in red "Hyst. ca. xi"), the latter citing Chrysostom on the assertion that a new star had appeared for an entire year before the birth of Jesus. Here the scribe has annotated this statement with a marginal addition: "Hec sententia minus est usitata", indicating that this idea is not usually held.

Published: H.R. Woudhuysen, 'Manuscripts at Auction: January 1988 to December 1988', in *English Manuscript Studies 1100-1700, vol. 2*, eds. P. Beal and J. Griffiths, Blackwell, Oxford, 1990, pp. 311, 315-317. J. Griffiths, 'Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection Copied or Owned in the British Isles before 1700', in *English Manuscript Studies 1100-1700, vol. 5*, eds. P. Beal and J. Griffiths, British Library, London, 1995, pp. 36-42.

£4,850



Item 5

# An early example of Beneventan minuscule, Italy C12th

6. Cutting from a Lectionary, with readings from Mark 14:1-11, in Beneventan script, in Latin, manuscript on vellum; *Southern Italy, twelfth century*.

Near-rectangular cutting, recovered from reuse in a binding and hence now only one lower quarter of the original leaf, with remains of one column (originally two) of 20 lines of fine and angular Beneventan minuscule, remains of red rubric, capitals touched in red, the characters 'c' and '+' in red added above words to indicate the different readers for the service in Holy Week, scuffed and stained overall with some small worm damage, 170 by 120mm.; bound in cloth-covered card folder.

#### Provenance:

Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 1680; acquired Sotheby's June 1988 Sotheby's 22 June 1993, lot 13.

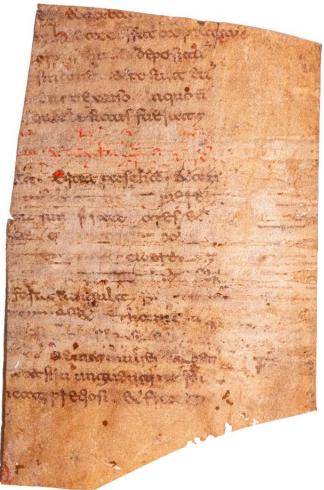
#### Text:

This is a good and affordable example of early Beneventan script, as well as an early witness to the public performance of religious texts in the Middle Ages. The small red letters above certain words told the medieval reader how to perform the reading, but their precise function remains imperfectly understood (see Karl Young, 'Observations on the Origin of the Mediæval Passion-Play', Proceedings of the Modern Language Association, 25, 1910, pp. 309-54, and M. Huglo, Les livres de chant liturgique, 1988). While previously thought to stand for Latin words describing how the reading has to be read or sung, these initials are now believed to indicate which person or groups of people should read or sing the text. As such, they are the base of the Medieval Passion plays performed in churches, and thus the earliest form of medieval performative drama.

#### Published:

V. Brown, 'A Second New List of Beneventan Manuscripts (III)', *Mediaeval Studies*, 56 (1994). BMB. *Bibliografia dei manuscritti in scrittura beneventana,* Viella, Roma, 1994.

£1,400



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Item 6: front and reverse

# A large Beneventan fragment, Italy C14th

7. Leaf from a Missal, for the Sanctoral, with the Mass for the Feast of the Apparition of St. Michael (8 May) and for the Feasts of SS. Gordian and Epimachus, in notably late Beneventan minuscule, in Latin, from very large decorated manuscript on vellum; *Southern Italy, fourteenth century* 

Large fragment of a leaf, with double column with 19 lines of a large late Beneventan script, one line trimmed away at base, rubrics and initials in red, some capitals touched in yellow wash, reused as an account book wrapper with the date '1563' on what was the spine of that later volume, some folds, stains and spots, trimmed at foot, overall fair and presentable condition, each leaf 320 x 300mm.: in cloth covered card binding

#### Provenance:

- 1. Quaritch cat. 1128, *Bookhands of the Middle Ages: Beneventan Script*, 1990, no. 25, bought en bloc with the entire catalogue by Dr Schøyen.
- 2. Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 70.

## Script:

In this leaf we see Beneventan script in its final evolutionary phase. It is not quite the end of its use in Italy, but clear deviations from the earlier forms begin to make themselves known in some abbreviations (a horizontal line rising at its right-hand side for '-tur' instead of the local form in the shape of a '2' and the standard for 'eius' instead of the local 'ei' ligature with a tiny cross stroke, a feature Lowe noted as "a standing feature of Beneventan MSS from the end of the 9th to the beginning of the 14th century", for example), as well as the more Continental gothic initials.

#### Published:

V. Brown, 'A Second New List of Beneventan Manuscripts (II)', Mediaeval Studies, 50 (1988), p. 602, no. vii. Répertoire des catalogues de manuscrits en ecriture latine anterieurs a 1600, List no. 10, 1990, p. 8 no 42. BMB. Bibliografia dei manuscritti in scrittura beneventana, 1994

£2,800

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## Two illuminated historiated initials on a C15th leaf.



8. Prologue to Job, in Latin, leaf from an illuminated Bible manuscript on vellum; *Austria or southern Germany, second half of fifteenth century* 

Single complete leaf, with double column of 44 lines in a rounded and angular late gothic bookhand, capitals touched in yellow, red rubrics, running titles in tall calligraphic red script at head of each column, two large initials in dark green or blue, with foliate scrollwork picked out in their bodies, the larger enclosing liquid gold foliage with coloured flowers on burgundy ground, both on burnished and pounced gold grounds enclosed with coloured frames which sprout sprigs of acanthus

leaves and gold bezants, a small '2' in lower outer corner of recto, one small original flaw to parchment (without losses to text), some small spots, else excellent condition, 380 x 270mm.; in cloth-covered binding

#### Provenance:

Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 599; acquired from Quaritch cat. 1088, *Bookhands of the Middle Ages III, 1988*, no. 75, in December 1989.

#### Decoration:

The larger of the initials here with its scrollwork design, and infill of liquid-gold single-hairline foliage set within an internal gold border, is notably close to a leaf from an Austrian Bible, probably produced in Vienna in the second quarter to the middle of the fifteenth century (Lilly Library, Bloomington, Indiana, Ricketts MS 17: reproduced in C. de Hamel, *Gilding the Lilly*, 2010, no. 65).

£1,500

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Item 8

# An exquisite historiated initial on a leaf written in the highest grade script.

9 King Cyrus Directing the Building of the Temple of Jerusalem, on a leaf from a Bible, in Latin, illuminated manuscript on vellum; *?Austria, 1507 or slightly earlier* 

Very distinctive script on a leaf from a high quality, closely-datable Bible, with flamboyant illumination depicting an unusual subject. A single leaf, , vertical rulings in pale pink-brown ink, horizontals ruled for tops as well as bottoms of minims in plummet, for 2 columns of 34 lines, written in a very high quality gothic bookhand, ruled space c.310×205mm, the text comprising Ezra 1:1–2:62, chapter 2 preceded by a four-line rubric from Bede's commentary on Nehemiah and Ezra (Migne, PL , XCI, 1850, col.817), the start of Ezra illuminated with a large historiated initial depicting King Cyrus instructing counsellors (the upper fore-edge corner stained and the upper gutter corner water-damaged and repaired, slightly affecting the initial and border decoration). c.420×280mm

Provenance: (1) Written and illuminated in Bohemia, Austria, or Germany probably for a Cistercian or Carthusian house, to judge by the use of punctus flexus punctuation, doubtless part of a complete Bible bound in four or five volumes, probably written in or shortly before 1507. The first volume of the set, containing Genesis—Ruth (Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, MS W.805), has always been dated 1507 on the basis of a scribal date at the very end, but it has not previously been noted that the final leaves (comprising a capitula list) are written by a different, presumably somewhat later, scribe. (2) Otto Ege (d.1951): text leaves were included in Ege's famous 'Fifty Original Leaves' portfolios as no 44; another leaf with a historiated initial was sold among the Ege residue at Sotheby's, 26 November 1985, lot 86 (see S. Gwara, Otto Ege 's Manuscripts , 2013, Handlist no 44). (3) Bruce Ferrini (d.2010), inscribed in pencil with his stock number 'VM 4190', Catalogue 1, Important Western Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts [...] , 1987, no 34. (4) Schøyen Collection, MS 227.

Script: The Bible from which this leaf comes was clearly a high status item, perhaps usually displayed open on a lectern. It seem to have been intended for public reading. The script is very regular, partly helped by the ruling which guides both the tops and the bottoms of the minims with very angular feet to the minims. Several features would have made reading aloud much easier: the letter 'u' has a small superscript 'u'-shape to distinguish it from 'ii'; there are very few abbreviations other than the standard abbreviation-mark for an omitted 'm' or 'n', and



sometimes for omitted letters after 'q' e.g. in the number 'qui(n)quagi(n)ta q(ua)tuor'; and while dozens of numbers appear on the verso of the leaf, they are all written out in full as words, not numerals.

Illumination: A charming, colourful and distinctive representation of an unusual subject. The 1987 Ferrini catalogue attributed the illumination to Augsburg, c.1500, and compared it to the work of the illuminator Leonhard Beck and the writing-master Leonhard Wagner The style with its bright palette of pinks, greens and blues, and its stocky, animated figures, is certainly very Germanic.

£6,500





10. Missal: opening of the Canon of the Mass, in Latin, decorated manuscript on vellum; *Germany, late fifteenth or early sixteenth century* 

Two large leaves, with single column of 16 lines in the most formal late gothic bookhand red rubrics, capitals touched in red, three 2-line initials in red or blue, one large initial 'T'

(opening "Te igitur ...") in scalloped red and blue sections in blue and red with outlines left in blank parchment, this encased in ornate red, blue and pale purple penwork picking out foliage, two small natural flaws in last leaf, upright margin of second leaf trimmed away, else excellent condition, 320 x 220mm.; in cloth-covered card binding.

#### Provenance:

Schøyen Collection, London and Oslo, their MS 1595, acquired Quaritch, London, in July 1992.

### Script:

The hand here represents the last and most formal phase of late medieval bookhands, with angular and bold letters, finished with decorative wedges added at their heads and feet and hairline decorative strokes to the extremities of the letters, all executed in a grand format. These same features would provide the models for the type of the earliest printed books.

£950

E igitur dementilli me pater y reludui lhi filui tuu duin no strû supluts rogam? et petimus. vii anceta habeas et beneduas et dona et mu nera er landa lamfina il libata In primis que tibi of fermus, pro endelia tua facta catholica.qua panficair.nif todur. adunare. et regert digne ris.toto orbeterray.vna nim famulo tuo papa mo.A.rege mode et antistite no det of by outhodoris catholice et apol tolice film aultoribs





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