38. RBSC Early MS 23 (Ege 23)
Breviary. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1350. 180 x 118 mm (written area 138 x 82 mm). Double columns, 32 lines per page. Alternating burnished gold and blue two-line initials with delicate contrasting penwork (blue on gold, red on blue), one five-line initial, one four-line initial (in gold). Alternating gold and blue one-line initials with similarly contrasting penwork on the verso. Alternating blue and gold or blue and red design along the left margins of each column. In top margin of verso “Sabbato on octauis Paschë” and recto “Dominica” in a post-medieval script. Text: from the Office for the Octave of Easter.

39. RBSC Early MS 24 (Ege 24)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France (for the English market), ca. 1350. 175 x 127 mm (written area 118 x 75 mm). Double columns, 30 lines per page. Catchword “templum” on verso. Five two-line, one three-line, and one four-line initial, all in burnished gold on pink or blue grounds with contrasting scroll designs or ivy leaf highlighted in orange and white. Such letters terminate in gold ivy leaf tendrils with colored highlights: orange, blue, white. Text: Office of St Stephen Protomartyr.

40. RBSC Early MS 25 (Ege 25)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1350. 179 x 124 mm (written area 125 x 75 mm). Single column, 14 lines per page. Two large initials in gold, the largest with a circular design in orange with white highlights, connected by a long shaft in gold and blue to a two-line initial “D,” gold on pink grounds with a central ivy scroll. Ivy leaves in gold, blue and orange emanating from the initials. One-line initials in gold on pink and blue grounds with white highlights. Rubricated. Minor decorative motifs, including one grotesque, in brown pen and brown wash. Some rubricated headings in French: “oraison” and “De tous sains antemne.” Text: The prayer “Patris Sapientia” from the Short Hours of the Cross (Matins).

41. RBSC Early MS 26 (Ege 26)
Missal. Single folio on vellum. France (Use of Rouen), ca. 1450. 292 x 215 mm (written area 198 x 138 mm). Foliated “101” in pencil in upper right corner. Double column, 31 lines per page. One catchword “tuo” on verso. One-, two-, and three-line gold initials on alternating pink and blue grounds with white highlights. Rubricated. Text: service for Holy Thursday (Coena Domini) end of the reading from St John, prayers, offertory; Psalms and antiphons for Vespers.
42. RBSC Early MS 27 (Ege 27)
Gradual. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1500. 329 x 240 mm (written area 260 x 180 mm). Seven four-line staves in red. Alternating red and blue initials with contrasting penwork highlights. Text: from a service for the fourth Sunday in Advent.

43. RBSC Early MS 28 (Ege 28)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1450. 150 x 103 mm (written area 87 x 62 mm). Single column, 15 lines per page. Two-line initials in gold on red and blue grounds highlighted in white. Bars in blue or red and silver along the left margins, terminating in penwork scrolls with stylized flowers and ivy leaves of gold, much decayed. Versal initials in yellow wash. Text: collects from the Litany of the Saints.

44. RBSC Early MS 29 (Ege 29)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1475. 185 x 135 mm (written area 91 x 59 mm). Single column, 14 lines per page. One two-line and nine one-line initials in gold on alternating red and blue grounds accented in white penwork. From the two-line initials extends a penwork scroll with gold ivy leaves and stylized blossoms in green and blue. Psalm 39.18 est mei . . . tardaveris and 40.1 Beatus . . . 4.8 cogitabant, with antiphons, from the Office of the Dead (Matins, third nocturns).

45. RBSC Early MS 30 (Ege 30)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1450. 182 x 128 mm (written area 96 x 60 mm). Single column, 14 lines per page. Foliated “140” in upper right corner of recto. Nine one-line initials in burnished gold in alternating red and blue grounds with white penwork. One two-line initial in burnished gold with interior ivy leaves in blue and orange. The margins on three sides, and the interior margin on the recto, filled with a profusion of penwork vines terminating in ivy leaves, stylized flowers, and foliage, and separated from the text by a bar of gold, red and blue. Office of the Dead (Vespers): Psalm 129.4 sustinuit . . . 129.8; Psalm 137.1 Confitebor . . . 137.4 oris tui, and antiphons.

46. RBSC Early MS 31 (Ege 31)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France (Paris), ca. 1425–1450. 187 x 129 mm (written area 107 x 68 mm). Single column, 15 lines per page. Nine two-line and two three-line initials in gold on contrasting blue and red grounds with white penwork accents. Outer margins have intricate penwork terminating in gold ivy leaves, red fruits, and stylized flowers in green, red, pink and shades of blue. Line fillers with gold centers surrounded by contrasting blue and red grounds with white penwork. Gradual Psalms 123 and 124.1 Qui confidunt . . . 124.2 in saeculum; from Terce, Sext or Vespers in the Hours of the Virgin.

47. RBSC Early MS 32 (Ege 32)
Breviary. Single folio on vellum. Italy (northwest), ca. 1450–1475. 264 x 198 mm (written area 170 x 122 mm). Single column. Alternating blue and red initials with contrasting penwork. One large gold initial “I” (recto: “Iesu”) with elaborate penwork in purple ink. Four-line staff with “C” line in red. Text: from the Common of the Saints: hymn and prayers for the nativity of one or more virgins.

48. RBSC Early MS 33 (Ege 33)
Missal. Single folio on vellum. Germany, ca. 1450. 370 x 277 mm (written area 250 x 178 mm). Double columns, 35 lines per page. Simple decoration in one-line, two-line, and larger initials of alternating red and blue. Rubricated throughout.

49. RBSC Early MS 34 (Ege 34)
Psalter. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1475. 385 x 285 mm (written area 278 x 183 mm). Single column, 43 lines per page, written every other line, starting below top line. Foliated “96” in black pen at upper right corner of recto. Alternating blue and red initials, larger initials at openings of the Psalms having elaborate purple penwork. Opening of the chants with antiphons in lower margin, the Psalm tones on four-line staves in red. Text: Psalm 120.7 Dominus custodit . . . 124.3 super Israhel, for Tuesday Vespers in secular use.
50. RBSC Early MS 35 (Ege 35)

51. RBSC Early MS 36 (Ege 36)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1450. 105 x 68 mm (written area 49 x 33 mm). Single column, 13 lines per page. Alternating gold initials on contrasting red and blue grounds with white penwork. Line-fillers with gold bars surrounded by contrasting red and blue grounds with white penwork. Probably from the Hours of the Virgin for Matins (Psalm 18.4 eorum . . . 18.9 oculos).

52. RBSC Early MS 37 (Ege 37)
Lectionary. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1450. 282 x 213 mm (written area 212 x 144 mm). Single column, 21 lines per page. Simple rubrication with two-line initials alternating red and blue with contrasting purple and red penwork. Larger text initials infilled with yellow wash and fine penwork designs. Marked throughout in red “rhetorical” neumes for chanting the lections. Marginal annotations indicating the biblical locus. Text: From the Proper of the Saints. Readings from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 15.1–15.6 illum, for the Feast of St. John Evangelist, and from Revelations 14.1–14.4 primicie, for the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The text is highly idiosyncratic in its departures from the Vulgate.

53. RBSC Early MS 38 (Ege 38)
Missal. Single folio on vellum. France (Use of Limoges), ca. 1425. 310 x 238 mm (written area 214 x 160 mm). Double columns, 29 lines per page. Foliated “258” in modern pencil in upper right margin. Rubricated throughout. Alternating two-line initials in red and blue with contrasting penwork. Text: From the Sanctorale, including memorials for SS Quitheria, Desiderius, Urbanus, Germanus, Eugenia, Maximianus and Petronilla.

54. RBSC Early MS 39 (Ege 39)
Titus Livy, *De Bello Punico Secundo Libri Decem* (third decade). Single folio on vellum. Italy (Naples), ca. 1440–1450, in the hand of Humanist scribe Giacomo Curlo. 222 x 158 mm (written area 160 x 95 mm). Single column, 24 lines per page. No illumination. Text: From the Ab urbe condita XXVI, 49 ad . . . captos . . . XXVI, 50 inter nos. Includes the famous passage on the continence of Scipio.

55. RBSC Early MS 40 (Ege 40)
Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Sentences of Peter Lombard*, Book I. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1475. 288 x 210 mm (written area 178 x 130 mm). Double columns, 37 lines per page. Foliated “12” in the upper right margin in modern pencil. Brown ink. Alternating red and blue three-line initials with alternating red and blue parafns in the body of the text. The recto is much worn.

56. RBSC Early MS 41 (Ege 41)
Gregory the Great, *Dialogues*. Single folio on vellum. Flanders, ca. 1440. 222 x 158 mm (written area 160 x 95 mm). Single column, ruled for 24 lines per page. “1” in pen at top margin, an early foliation. Simple decoration of alternating blue and red one-line and two-line initials, with blank letters, staff-high touched in red for the chants. Middle C in the staves highlighted in yellow, F in red. Hufnagelschrift neumes corrected through erasure and additions. Text: Psalms 6.7 [lavabo . . . 8.4 celos (with antiphon, etc.). A massive format for distant reading by a Benedictine choir. The manuscript comes from the monastery of St. Stephan, Würzburg.
58. RBSC Early MS 43 (Ege 43)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. The Netherlands, ca. 1500. 177 x 128 mm (written area 112 x 74 mm). Single column, 18 lines per page. Alternating red and blue one-line initials, with one three-line red “A” highlighted in violet penwork tracery on the verso. Text: verso: Psalter canticle “Audite celi” (Canticum Deuteronomii) for Lauds, here Deuteronomy 32.1–7 annunciabit; recto: Psalter canticle “Audivit et conturbatus” (“Song of Habbakuk”) for Lauds, here Habbakuk 3.14 [paup]erem . . . 3.19 canentem.

59. RBSC Early MS 44 (Ege 44)
Lectern Bible. Single folio on vellum. Germany, ca. 1500. 416 x 275 mm (written area 311 x 207 mm). Double columns, 34 lines per page. Simplest rubrication, with alternating red and blue three-line initials at chapter openings. Text: 2 Paralipomenon 4.11 [com]plevit . . . 6.16 David.

60. RBSC Early MS 45 (Ege 45)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1480. 187 x 134 mm (written area 90 x 62 mm). Single column, 12 lines per page. One-line gold initials on alternating and contrasting pink and blue grounds highlighted in white penwork. A single two-line initial on pink and blue grounds, sprouting single penwork vines with leaves in red, gold and blue. Most line-fillers have gold dots on contrasting pink and blue grounds highlighted by white penwork. Hours of the Virgin (Lauds): “Benedictus es domine in firmamento” followed by Psalm 148.1-6 non prete[r(ibit)].

61. RBSC Early MS 46 (Ege 46)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France (?Flanders), ca. 1480. 163 x 122 mm (written area 98 x 68 mm). Single column, 16 lines per page. Burnished “167” in modern pencil, lower right margin of recto. Burnished gold initials on alternating and contrasting pink and blue grounds with white penwork highlights. Line-fillers with central gold oblongs and contrasting pink and blue grounds with white penwork. Panel decoration in the outside margins consisting of scrolls in blue and gold, vines with green leaves, pink buds, and red blossoms with gilt centers. Psalm 7.4 iniquitas . . . 7.15 iniquitatem, possibly from the Office of the Dead.

62. RBSC Early MS 47 (Ege 47)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. Flanders, ca. 1480. 177 x 133 mm (written area 94 x 62 mm). Single column, 14 lines. A two-line initial in gold on blue grounds with interior ivy leaves in orange and blue, else simple rubrication (French) in the text. On the recto: panel decoration with blue and gold scrollwork, profuse vines with green leaves, blue flowers and red strawberries, highlighted in gold. Verso: solid panel decoration, alternating gold, blue and orange chevrons infilled with sprays of flowers, gold or white penwork, and red strawberries. From the Commemorations of the Saints, for St Katherine on the recto, for the Angels on the verso.
63. RBSC MS 48 (Ege 48)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. Flanders, ca. 1500. 172 x 123 mm (written area 103 x 70 mm). Single column, 20 lines. Written in brown ink. One- and two-line initials consisting of gold over alternating blue, red and brown grounds. Marginal panel decoration of pink and blue scrolls, green leafy stalks terminating in blue flowers with white highlights, red strawberries or white blossoms with highlights. Text: Psalm 6.10 exaudivit Dominus . . . 6.11; Psalm 12; Job 7.1 militia . . . 7.4 usque ad (with antiphons). From the Office of the Dead, first nocturns of Matins.

64. RBSC Early MS 49 (Ege 49)
Missal. Single folio on vellum. Germany, ca. 1500. 395 x 295 mm (written area 285 x 214 mm). Double columns, 35 lines per page. Alternating red and blue initials, some three lines or more. Rubricated throughout. From the Sanctorale: Mass for St. Matthew, including vigils. Mention of saints Mauritius and Emmeram, emphasizing the German connection.

65. RBSC Early MS 50 (Ege 50)
Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1500. 164 x 115 mm (written area 93 x 62 mm). Single column, 14 lines per page. One- and two-line initials in gold on alternating and contrasting red and blue grounds highlighted in white penwork. Line fillers having diminutive gold dots and contrasting red and blue grounds with white penwork. Panel decoration in outside margins consisting of blue and gold scrolls, leafy fronds, with green leaves and red or blue blossoms. Gold highlights throughout. Text: from the penitential Psalms: 101.27 ipsi peribunt . . . Psalm 129 (all) . . . Psalm 142.1 iustitia.
66. RBSC Early MS 51
   (Pages from the Past MS 1)

Bible. Single folio on vellum.
France (Paris), ca. 1275. 123 x 82
mm (written area 92 x 59 mm).
Double columns, 47 lines. A
leaf from a diminutive "pocket"
bible. Versal initials highlighted
in red. Larger initials opening
chapters in alternating red and
blue with contrasting penwork
swags down the full length of
the margin. Alternating red and
blue characters for the chapter
numbers and titles. Isaiah 26.5
[humil]habitat eam usque . . . 28.28
non in. Possibly from the Grusch
atelier. Exterior corners eaten
by rodents.
67. RBSC Early MS 52  
(Pages from the Past MS 2)

Decretals (Canon Law). Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1350. 407 x 251 mm (written area 297 x 182 mm). Double columns, 62 lines per page. “III” at top. Alternating red and blue initials with simple contrasting penwork in red or blue. Headings in red. Lemmas underlined in red throughout. Some sections highlighted in margins with a light pen.

68. RBSC Early MS 53  
(Pages from the Past MS 3)

Book of Hours. Single folio on vellum. France, ca. 1500. 180 x 134 mm (written area 87 x 59 mm). Single column, 12 lines. Written in French. Exceptionally wide margins, possibly intended for illumination. Price (1-) marked on the lower right corner of the verso. Text: unidentified prayer to the Virgin in French.

69. RBSC Early MS 54  
(Pages from the Past MS 4)

Simon of Cremona, Sermons for the Temporale. Single folio on paper. Germany (Buxheim), 1434 (dated by colophon). 303 x 216 mm (written area 215 x 140 mm). Copied by the Carthusian scribe Caspar Misen-sis (Meissen). Double columns, 44–46 lines per page. Dark brown ink. Simple rubrication, lemmas underscored in red. A contemporaneous hand has added annotations. A portion of this manuscript now at the Beinecke Library, Yale University (MS 3.12).

70. RBSC Early MS 55  
(Pages from the Past MS 5)

Treatise on Knighthood (“Los Virtuosos Varones”). Single folio on paper. Spain, ca. 1500. 184 x 136 mm (written area 142 x 90 mm). Single column, 26–27 lines. In Old Spanish. Foliated “60” in upper right of recto. Initials of the chapter opening in brown ink and yellow wash. Leaves in other portfolio collections have annotations in Portuguese. From an unidentified legal or administrative treatise on knighthood, addressing the qualities and obligations of a castellan (“alcayde”), the warden of a castle. The text contains echoes of Alonso de Cartagena’s Doctrinal de los cavalleros (ca. 1444), II.xv.7–8, which closely follows the Siete partidas (1256–65), II.xviii.6–7. The original treatise may have been an epitome of the Doctrinal or a closely related compilation by Cartagena himself.

71. RBSC Early MS 56  
(Pages from the Past MS 6)

Breviary. Single folio on vellum. Northern France or Flanders, ca. 1475. 177 x 125 mm (written area 122 x 88 mm). Double columns, 31 lines. One- and two-line initials in alternating blue and red, else simple rubrication throughout. In the left upper margin of the recto: “ccxvii.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
72. RBSC Early MS 57 (Walton Collection MS 1)
Astronomical Tables. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1400-1500. 327 x 229 mm (written area 254 x 152 mm). Numerals in light brown ink, the table headings and hours in red. Blue only in the headings at top. Astronomical tables illustrating the “ascensions of the signs in the climates,” in this case the fourth climate of Baghdad and Jerusalem. The Latin term “climate” here means “region.” Marginal headings “d.ii” refer to “differentia secunda,” the second table. Across the top of each table is the zodiacal sign: pisces, capric, etc., below which are written the terms “arcus,” “anguli orientales” or “anguli occidentales.” Along the right side of the table are the hours of the day beginning with noon (“meridies”).

73. RBSC Early MS 58 (Walton Collection MS 2)
Lectionary. Single folio on vellum. Germany, ca. 1500. 287 x 220 mm (written area 214 x 125 mm). Single column, 16 lines. Foliated “4” in late medieval pen and “25” in modern pencil in lower right margin of recto; foliated “xl[],” in upper right margin of recto. Brown ink with large brown initials having red highlights, light brown penwork, and a marginal swag at the opening of the Gospel reading (recto). On the verso a two-line blue initial with red penwork. Recto: Gospel lections for the Sanctorale (the Beatitudes: Matthew 5.1 Videns . . . 5.12 celis), possibly for the Feast of All Saints; verso: Old Testament lection from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus 44.16-27) for the Feast of St. Martin of Tours.

74. RBSC Early MS 59 (Walton Collection MS 3)
Hymnal. Single folio on vellum. Italy, ca. 1500. 325 x 242 mm (written area 243 x 170 mm). Foliated “113” in upper right of recto. Four-line staves in red (“C” on second line), six lines of text. Illuminated at the opening of each hymn in alternating red and black capitals. Hymn for the Feast of the Ascension.

75. RBSC Early MS 60
Cutting from a large-format choir book, probably an antiphonal. Italy, ca. 1500. 131 x 109 mm. Five-line staves in red, “C” on the middle line. From: Ronald Reed, Specimens of Parchment with Notes by Ronald Reed (Los Angeles: Dawson’s Bookshop, 1976). Number 175 of 200 copies. Rare TS1165 .R43 Suppl. 4to.
76. RBSC Early MS 61
Ranulphus (Ranulf/Ranulf) Higden, *Polychronicon*. MS on vellum. Northern England (London, possibly Coventry), ca. 1440–1450. Single column, 37 lines per page. 336 leaves, complete, collated (7, 8 blank) – XLII° (336 blank except for pentials “T” and “Thomas”; 337 completely blank; 338 glued to the board, at the top of which is written “penthanus pontifex” in a later hand), another flyleaf. Catchwords throughout. Foliated i - 336, the last two folios blank. 295 x 192 mm (written area 190 x 110 mm).

Higden took monastic vows in 1299 at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester and died in 1363/4. Attribution to Higden is based on an acrostic in which the first letters from the opening of the first sixty chapters spell out “PRESIDENT CRONICAM CONVULAVIT FRATER RANULPHUS CESTRENSIS MONACHUS.” The problematic insertion of the acrostic led to the omission of the geographical description of Brabant, which appears in the USC manuscript at the end of I.xxvii (fol. 34r). An illegible note at the bottom of this folio as well as the change of ink and textual revisions at the top of two lines of the following folio may reveal some consternation over the insertion.

Multiple hands contribute text and decoration. The first quire is ruled as an alphabetical index, with alternating blue and burnished gold initials, highlighted in contrasting penwork. The gold has blue penwork details, while the blue has red penwork. After each subject is a reference number to the book and chapter for books 1–3 and one entry for book 4. 5 ½ pages are ruled but left blank. Higden’s own autograph (Huntington Library MS HM 132) has a complete index. Similar in format and decoration is the poem “De Wallia et eius moribus,” fols. 43v–46v. Elsewhere some poems are transcribed as verse, but the treatment is inconsistent.

Most of the manuscript is decorated in alternating blue and highly burnished gold one-line initials, with contrasting penwork details, red on blue and blue on gold. At chapter openings and divisions, two-, three-, and four-line initials (occasionally even larger) in burnished gold with contrasting blue and red grounds and white penwork highlights. From the larger initials sprout stems with green leaves and gold ivy leaves. In the margins across from the chapter initials are chapter numbers in red decorated in blue parats with red highlights. From fol. 74v onwards the upper outside margins have date references, which also occur in the margins, naming Roman emperors and regnal years or English and French kings and their regnal years. The upper inside margins supply a further dating reference. Simple but careful rubrication for such things as sources, saints’ entries, occasional capitula. Important names may be rubricated in the margins as well (e.g. *De Rege Artburo*, fol. 197v, as a chapter heading). Line fillers blue and burnished gold, quite various in formation. Evidence of many different scribes dividing their labors, and with inconsistent approaches to the minor rubrication.

Full borders: fols. 9r, 63v, 102r, 153r, 192r, 240r, 278r.

Each of the seven books opens with a full border illumination characteristic of English (London) decoration between 1440 and 1450. The examples are of good quality but not the most exceptional grade, as befits a manuscript of this sort. Acanthus leaves in shades of green, pink, red and blue around a gold bar border surrounded by sprays with trumpet flowers, clovers, etc. with burnished gold dots and pine cones. Most of the illuminated leaves have one or two large aroids. Flowers commonly do not vary between the major elements, the design altogether simpler than one finds in the most elaborate manuscripts. The initials vary in scale from three to nine lines.

Higden seems to have disseminated multiple versions of his work, and five branches are designated by manuscript sigla A, B, C, D and E. The edited version designated E, based on Cambridge, University Library MS Li.3.1, undoubtedly represents Higden’s final version or close to it and is based on the autograph MS HM 132 at the Huntington Library. Among the other versions, that now represented by manuscripts C and D is the oldest, probably finished around 1327 and disseminated locally. Although the versions A and B are intermediate and datable to ca. 1340, they were the most popular. AB texts resemble the short CD version but have additions throughout. The E version is the fullest, and the USC manuscript preserves this text. On the basis of Higden’s autograph copy of the *Polychronicon* in the Huntington Library, it seems plausible that the core text was finished around 1340, and that additions were made up to 1348, with an expansion to 1352 contributed by another writer. Using these few genuine Higden additions, authors in the 1360s began to compose continuations covering more recent history, the USC manuscript is one of six (of approximately 120 manuscripts) preserv-
ing Higden’s final version of his *Polychronicon*. All of these descend from Higden’s autograph in the Huntington. The USC text has the closest affinity with that in Trinity College, Cambridge MS O.5.12, from the collection of Roger Walle, canon of Lichfield and archdeacon of Coventry. Archdeacon Walle’s book is also mid-fifteenth century.

The manuscript once owned by Richard Towneley (1629–1707) and bears his bookplate dated 1702, hence probably acquired by Richard and not in the collection of his father Christopher. Sold by Sotheby’s 27 June 1883 lot 105 (“splendid” and “gorgeously illuminated”) to Quaritch for £37.


Bound by Riviere and Son: “Higdeni / Polychronicon / Manuscriptum / in / Membranis / sec. xiv.” on spine.

Rare 942 H634p.

77. RBSC Early Ms 62

Book of Hours (Use of Sarum). MS on vellum. 173 folios, defective. Flanders (probably Bruges), for the English market, ca. 1420–1440. In the style of the Masters of the Gold Scrolls. Foliated 1–173 in modern pencil, inner left bottom margin. Collated I⁺ (modern reconstruction, some singletons glued to paper gutters, the stubs attached to a vellum strip from a printed book, stitching between fols. 4–5) + II⁺ (wants 2, 7) + III⁺ (wants 6) + VI⁺ (wants 1) + IX⁺ (wants 1, 8) + X⁺ (wants 1) + XI⁺ (wants 7) + XII⁺ (wants 2–3, 6–7) + XIII⁺ (wants 3) + XIV⁺ – XV⁺ + XX⁺ (wants 1) + XXI⁺ (wants 1) + XXII⁺ (the final folio attached to a trinion). Quires have been numbered in pen in extreme upper left margins. Multiple catchwords. Many of the losses are illuminations. In addition to these losses, part of Terce, all of Sext, the whole of Vespers and Compline, and a portion of the sequences on fols. 73r–77v are missing (two lost gatherings between Q7 and Q8 and between Q8 and Q9). By this count, at least 31 leaves are absent.

The foliation includes a vellum flyleaf with “691” in modern pencil at the bottom of the recto (fol. 1) and “Rare / ND / 3363 / .M3” (USC catalogue number) in the center of the verso, followed by a vellum flyleaf with Latin prayers added in a fifteenth-century hand (inc. “Domine Deus, omnipotens pater et filius et spiritus sanctus”) and the shelfmark “E. 4. 2.” at the top (fol. 2), additional prayers in a different fifteenth-century hand, 172r (inc. “Ave pretiosissimum et gloriosissimum corpus domini nostrui”). The bottom half of the folio has been cut out and replaced, with probable loss of an early ownership mark. Fol. 173r also preserves French prayers in the same hand as folio 172r (top half of the leaf, acephalous, expl. “de paradis et en remission de nostre peccatis) and as fol. 2r–v (bottom half in Latin, inc. “Deus qui transtulisti”). Fol. 173v is blank.

The decoration is characteristic of average Hours (Passion Cycle) from Bruges ca. 1420–40. Rinceaux in the background symptomatic of the school. The decorative program would have included at least 19 half-page illuminations, as follows:
Fol. 15r (retouched) Pietà; 25r St John the Baptist; 26v Mary Magdalene; 35v betrayal in Gethsemane; 50v Before Pilate; 55r Flagellation; 60v Crucifixion; 78r Virgin and Christ child presented a chalice; 114r (repaired and retouched) mourners at a bier; 140r (smeared) souls carried to heaven by angels. Lost illuminations: opposite 24r (prob. Thomas à Becket), 86v, 94r (prob. David in Penance), 154v, 162r (prob. St Jerome), as well as four missing panels for Matins (Agony in the Garden, also before 24r), Sext (Christ Carrying the Cross), Vespers (Deposition) and Compline (Entombment). Most of the panels show signs of wear from kissing. Two-line and larger initials in gold on pink grounds with blue interiors and white penwork, with contrasting penwork colors, sometimes highlighted in black. Some larger initials with foliage sprays terminating in gold ivy leaves. One-line initials typically alternating gold and blue with contrasting penwork (blue for gold, red for blue). The miniatures of average quality, with palette, background, flat perspective, borders, marginal decoration and decorative details characteristic of the school.

Contents:

1. Fols. 1–2 as described above.

2. Fols. 3–14: a kalendar listing most of the primary English saints except Swithun (added later) and Aldhelm. Unusual entries include SS Gertrude (17 March), Jambert (12 August), Hugh (6 October), Rumwold (3 November), Birinus (2 December) and Nicasius (14 December). Additions to the calendar include the Translation of St Osmund (July 16), and feasts for SS Jambert (12 August) and Edward the Confessor (13 October). A few additions in English (“ester daye,” “letania,” “ascension daye,” “all soloes,” etc.). Various other emendations and additions.


4. Fols. 24r–27v: memorials to SS Thomas à Becket (acephalous), John the Baptist and Mary Magdalene.

5. Fols. 28r–72v: Hours of the Virgin (Passion Cycle), as follows: fols. 28r–35r Matins (missing one folio); fols. 35v–50r Lauds with Suffrages of the Saints, including SS Laurence, Becket, John the Baptist, Katherine, Mary Magdalene, etc.; fols. 50v–54v Prime; fols. 55r–60r Terce; fols. 60v–72v None. Additions to the text on fol. 77r–v in a hand that contributed to fols. 9v and 38v. Expl.: Has vidas laudes / Et venerando gaudes . . . Inveniet veniam / venerando quisque marian.”

6. Fols. 73r–77v sequences

7. Fols. 78r–80v “O interemerata”

8. Fols. 80v–83v “Obsecro te”

9. Fols. 83v–86v Seven Joys of the Virgin


11. Fols. 94r–104v seven penitential psalms and the 15 Gradual psalms (incipits of the first 12).

12. Fols. 104v–110r Litany of the Saints

13. Fols. 110v–114v various prayers

14. Fols. 114r–139v Office of the Dead

15. Fols. 140r–154v Commendation of Souls (ending defective)

16. Fols. 155r–160v Psalms of the Passion (acephalous, 160v blank)

17. Fols. 161r–172r Psalter of St Jerome

Possibly from southeast England, given the memorial to Becket and the entry for SS Rumwold and Jambert in the calendar (culted mostly in Kent). However, triangulation of Rumwold with the missionary bishop St Birinus (venerated at Winchester) in the calendar strongly suggests Dorset.


Rare ND 3363 .M3.