Illuminated Manuscripts of Germany and Central Europe in the J. Paul Getty Museum

Thomas Kren

This beautifully illustrated volume explores the richness of the J. Paul Getty Museum’s holdings in German and Central European manuscripts from the ninth to the eighteenth century. Showcased here are full-color reproductions of masterpieces from such works as Carolingian manuscripts of the ninth century; several sumptuously illuminated Ottonian texts from the late tenth and early eleventh centuries; two of the most celebrated examples of Romanesque illumination: the Helmarshausen Gospel book from the 1120s and the Stammheim Missal, made around 1170 for Saint Michael’s monastery in Hildesheim; The Life of the Blessed Hedwig from 1353; and the only known illuminations by the Cologne painter called the Master of Saint Veronica, ca. 1400. It also illustrates many richly colored illuminations from such manuscripts as a luxury psalter made in Würzburg, dating from the mid-thirteenth century; a copy of Rudolf von Ems’s Weltchronik, produced in the early fifteenth century; and chivalric and dynastic manuscripts from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Thomas Kren is senior curator of manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum and coauthor of Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting.

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