PAINTED PRAYERS
BOOKS OF HOURS FROM THE MORGAN LIBRARY

Simon Marmion
Flemish, active 1450–1489
The Coronation of the Virgin (detail), Book of Hours, about 1480
Tempera and gold on parchment
16.5 x 11 cm (6 1/2 x 4 1/16 in.)
The Pierpont Morgan Library, Purchased 1950
MS M.6, fol. 57v

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GETTY EXHIBITION BRINGS RENOWNED COLLECTION OF MANUSCRIPTS TO LOS ANGELES

Painted Prayers: Books of Hours from the Morgan Library
At the Getty Center, October 18, 2005–January 8, 2006

LOS ANGELES—The Getty Center's Fall 2005 Premier Presentation exhibition will bring some of the greatest illuminated manuscripts in the world to Los Angeles for the first time. Painted Prayers: Books of Hours from the Morgan Library, at the Getty Center, October 18, 2005–January 8, 2006, will feature highlights from the renowned collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts and printed books of The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. Painted Prayers is part of a series of exhibitions that is touring the country while the Morgan Library undergoes an extensive renovation and expansion project.

Painted Prayers focuses on books of hours, the most popular type of book in late medieval and Renaissance Europe. These lavish and intricately handcrafted devotional manuscripts contain some of the most beautiful paintings produced by the leading artists of the day. On view will be 52 manuscripts and six printed books from the Morgan Library's collection that were produced over 300 years, from the 13th through the 16th centuries, in France, England, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, and Spain. The exhibition takes the visitor inside a book of hours, explaining the different texts, called devotions, and showing the
myriad of inventive ways each was illustrated. At the Getty Center, **Painted Prayers** will include three stained glass works from the Museum's collection.

**Painted Prayers** brings a number of masterpieces of manuscript illumination to the Getty Center. *The Hours of Catherine of Cleves*, considered the greatest of all Dutch books of hours, is filled with 157 miniatures framed by borders of remarkable inventiveness. *The Hours of Henry VIII*, thought to have been owned by the English king himself, was created in France by the artist Jean Poyet, who worked for three successive French royal courts—Louis XI, Charles VIII, and Louis XII. With its rich cycle of 54 miniatures, *The Hours of Henry VIII* is Poyet's masterpiece. *The Farnese Hours* was renowned in its day and called one of the "marvels of Rome," drawing distinguished visitors to Cardinal Alessandro Farnese's palace. Finished in 1546, it is still considered one of the greatest manuscripts of the Italian Renaissance.

With brilliant examples produced over three centuries, the exhibition offers an insightful view of the European tradition of books of hours and their various permutations. It includes works by artists of the International Style, who used jewel-like tones to depict their elegant figures and scenes, and Flemish illuminators, who radically transformed the appearance of the illustrated page during the 15th and 16th centuries. Also on view are manuscripts by late Gothic French painters Jean Fouquet and Barthelemy van Eyck, the French Renaissance artist Jean Bourdichon, and the great Italian Renaissance illuminator Attavante degli Attavanti. The pages of books of hours were one of the primary vehicles of artistic expression of the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, and it was on these pages that the best artists created some of the most beautiful paintings of the time.

From about 1250 to 1550, more books of hours were commissioned and collected, bought and sold, given, bequeathed, and inherited than any other type of book, including the Bible. These prayer books offered the lay public direct access to God, Mary, and numerous saints. They were also symbols of status and power: rich patrons commissioned from the leading artists of the day personalized books that were sometimes decorated with gold leaf, silver, and expensive pigments like lapis lazuli. As a result, each of these handmade books has its own distinctive character and is often intimately connected to the life of the individual who owned and used it.

**Painted Prayers: Books of Hours from the Morgan Library** is organized by the Morgan Library, New York. The exhibition comes to the Getty Center after presentation at the Kimbell
Art Museum, Fort Worth, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. The curator in charge of the exhibition tour is Roger S. Wieck, Curator, Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, the Morgan Library.

EXHIBITION LISTENING STATIONS
Books of hours were typically written and recited in the church's official language, Latin. Visit the eight listening stations located throughout the exhibition to hear brief English translations of these sacred yet personal books.

RELATED EXHIBITION
*A Masterpiece Reconstructed: The Hours of Louis XII*
October 18, 2005–January 8, 2006
The Hours of Louis XII was a large and elegant devotional book illuminated by Jean Bourdichon (French, 1457–1521) for the king of France in 1498, probably in honor of his coronation that year. By the end of the 17th century the manuscript was completely dismembered. Within the past few decades, 16 of the miniatures and parts of the text have been discovered. For the first time in more than 300 years, this exhibition, co-organized by the Getty and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, reunites the text and 15 miniatures from the book.

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