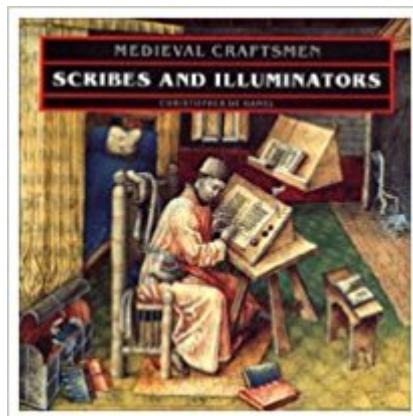


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# Scribes And Illuminators (Medieval Craftsmen)



## **Synopsis**

Illuminated manuscripts survive in great numbers from the Middle Ages. They are often beautifully preserved, enabling us to appreciate the skilled design and craftsmanship of the people who created them. Christopher de Hamel describes each stage of production from the preparation of the vellum, pens, paints and inks to the writing of the scripts and the final decoration and illumination of the book. He then examines the role of the stationer or bookshop in co-ordinating book production and describes the supply of exemplars and the accuracy of texts. He follows the careers of a number of specific scribes and illuminators who emerge not as anonymous monks but as identifiable professional lay artisans. He also looks at those who bought the completed books, why they did so, and how much they paid. His survey ranges from the eleventh century through the golden age of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to the luxurious manuscripts existing at the invention of printing.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

More manuscripts survive than any other artifact from the Middle Ages. They are often beautifully preserved, enabling us to appreciate the skilled design and craftsmanship of the men who created them.

Christopher de Hamel is the Head of the Department of Manuscripts at Sotheby's London and author of *Scribes and Illuminators* (Medieval Craftsmen Series).

This very well-written book goes through the steps of the conception, planning, and creation of the illuminated manuscript. The subject matter is one that could have the potential to be dry and boring, but the author does a wonderful job of educating the reader about how these manuscripts were made, anticipating the readers questions, providing context, and including interesting and exciting stories that relate to the subject. My only wish would be that more of the interesting facts were illustrated with pictures. There are many great photographs of manuscripts, but sometimes the author will describe evidence that particular techniques were used and it would have been wonderful to see examples of them in a photograph. The book leaves me ready to look for more and eager to learn more about the times in which these manuscripts were made.

Well written, and despite its brevity had some information I hadn't come across before, in particular, the existence of female scribes.

A well-written overview of the role of scribes and illuminators. The illustrations in the book are particularly good. It made me interested in finding additional books in the series.

This is a wonderful informative book. The complete process of making illuminated manuscripts is described from making parchment to mixing paints. Highly recommended.

This book provided an entertaining, quick overview of the entire bookmaking process in the Middle Ages. While not a comprehensive "how to" book, it introduced me to many terms and concepts I had never heard of before, giving me the vocabulary I will need to further my study in the craft of bookmaking. It also includes a small glossary and suggested reading list. This book is filled with photographs, so if you are a visual learner or just want to better appreciate the artistry of medieval books, this guide will serve you well.

If you're into Calligraphy, or just hand writing or just reading or just like books, or just like history, ..., well you get the idea it's an interesting reAD.

Just what I was looking for!

excellent

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