

# The Dissolution of the Repository:

Disbinding and Distributing Manuscript Surrogates in the Digital Age

*Out of Bounds: Mobility, Movement and Use of Manuscripts and Printed Books, 1350-1550*

Twelfth Biennial Conference of the Early Book Society in collaboration with the

Twelfth York Manuscripts Conference

Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York

July 5, 2011

"[Li]braries always bear an especially rich and complex relationship with the past, which consists—no less today than in the Reformation—of one part preservation, one part invention, and one part disavowal,"

Jennifer Summit  
*Memory's Library* (239)



Libraries “function less as transparent containers of historical truth than as embodiments of historically specific ideas about what constitutes truth in textual forms”

Jennifer Summit  
*Memory's Library (8)*

Courtesy of Flickr user Rubbermaid Products





“...the containers  
archivists develop  
must be malleable”

Beth Yakel

“Thinking Inside and Outside the  
Boxes: Archival Reference Services  
at the Turn of the Century”

*Archivaria* 49(146)

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Rebecca Welzenbach, MSI | University of Michigan Library | @rwelzenb

**M**Library

The promise of the digital is not in the way it allows us to ask new questions because of digital tools or because of new methodologies made possible by those tools. The promise is in the way the digital reshapes the representation, sharing, and discussion of knowledge.

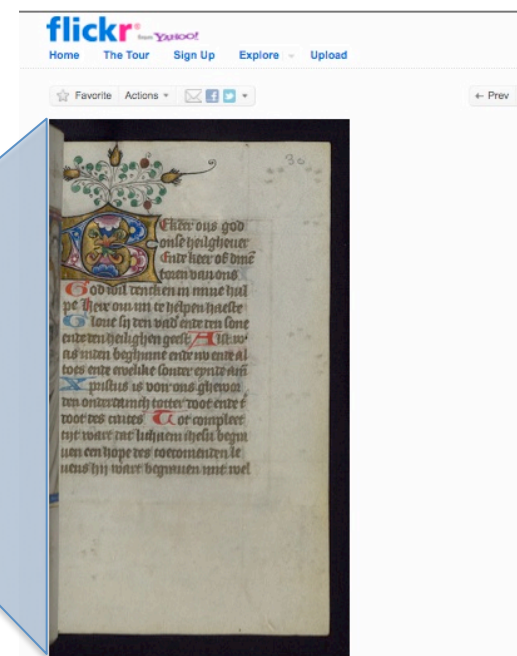
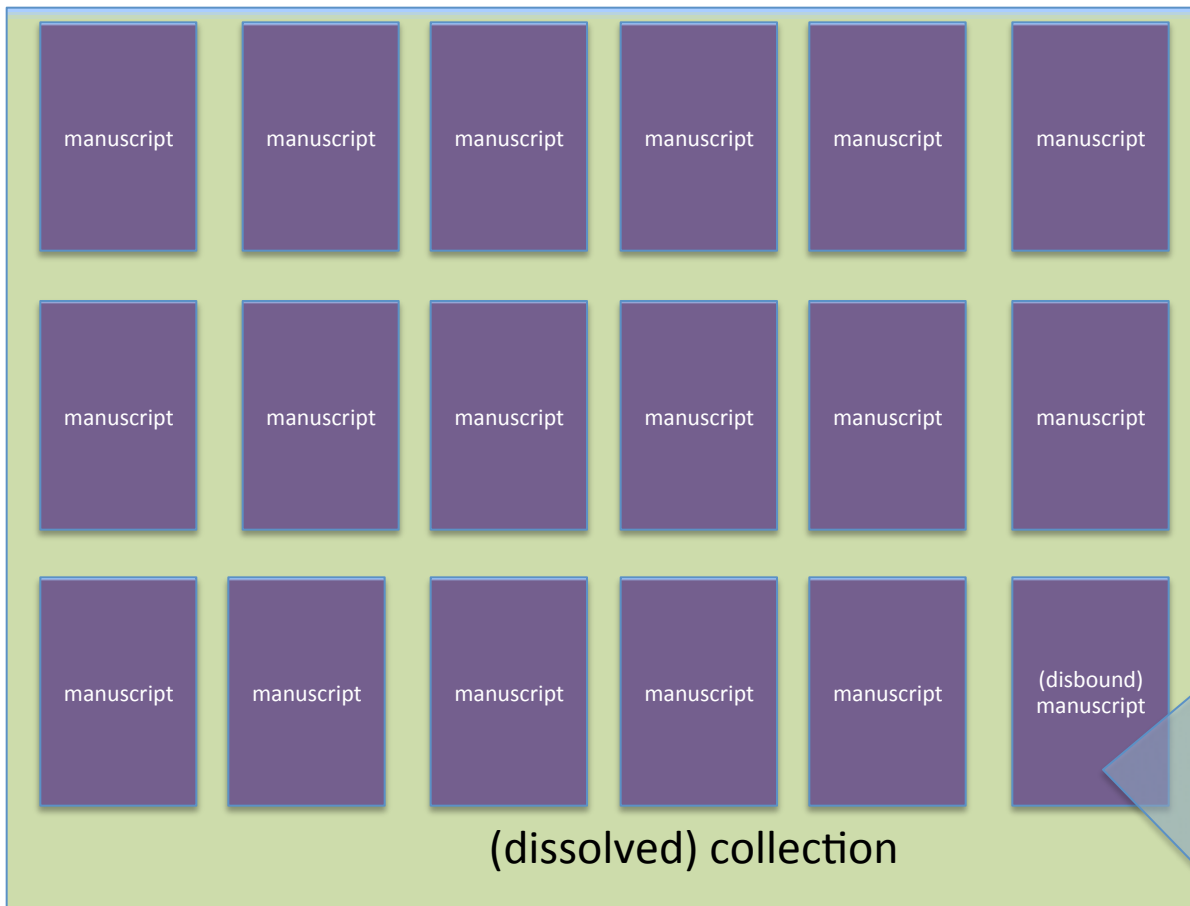
Mark Sample

“The digital humanities is not about building, it’s about sharing”

May 25, 2011

By preparing our resources to withstand disbinding and dissolution, we can...

- (1) Provide greater access (and see more use of) digitized manuscripts,
- (2) Maintain *better* intellectual control over these resources, and
- (3) Leave room for new modes of representation, sharing, and discussion



**Illuminated Manuscript, Book of Hours, Decorated Initial, Walters Art Museum Ms. W.165, fol. 30r**

This mid-fifteenth century illuminated Book of Hours is written entirely in Dutch on fine vellum, and is remarkable for its eighteen grisaille miniatures. The technique, wherein the figures are modeled primarily in a gray wash, became a favorite in the Netherlands, and the hand behind the paintings in this manuscript has been identified with a group of artists known as the "Masters of the Delft Grisailles." This manuscript has been grouped with more than a dozen related works, including New York P.M.L. M. 349, London, Victoria and Albert Geo. Reid Ms. 32, Leiden B.P.L. 224, Brussels, BR Z1696, Antwerp, Plantain Moretus Ms. 48, and the Hague K.B. Ms. 74 G 36. The manuscript is comprised of 162 folios and is almost completely intact, lacking only two miniatures, and retains its original brown leather binding decorated with mythological beasts and a now illegible inscription. The calendar is for the use of Utrecht, which helps localize its original ownership, as might a mostly erased ownership inscription that has been partially recovered by Marrow. Hours of the Virgin.







**GettyMuseum** J. Paul Getty Museum

Celebrating the day of the fool! <http://getty.us/gCFMhz> #aprilfools  
#foolsinart

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**KathrynTomasek** Kathryn Tomasek



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## The Fool and a Demon



⊕ Enlarge

**Master of Jean de Mandeville**

French, Paris, about 1360 - 1370

Tempera colors, gold leaf, and gold paint on parchment

MS. 1, V1, FOL. 284

*Not Currently on View*





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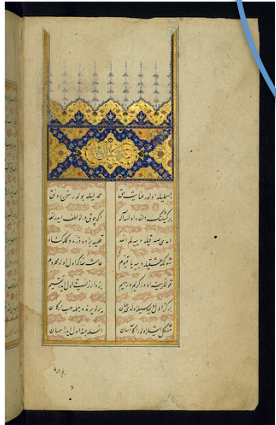
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By Walters Art Museum Illuminated Manuscripts  
William Noel + Add Contact


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Walters Western Manuscripts - From a Book of Hours; beautiful decorated initial <http://ow.ly/41Y2z>

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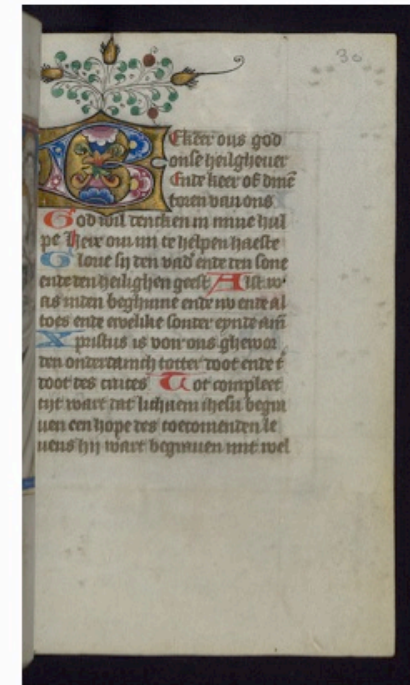
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Illuminated Manuscript, Book of Hours, Decorated Initial, Walters Art Museum Ms. W.165, fol. 30r

This mid-fifteenth century illuminated Book of Hours is written entirely in Dutch on fine vellum, and is remarkable for its eighteen grisaille miniatures. The technique, wherein the figures are modeled primarily in a gray wash, became a favorite in the Netherlands, and the hand behind the paintings in this manuscript has been identified with a group of artists known as the "Masters of the Delft Grisailles." This manuscript has been grouped with more than a dozen related works, including New York PML M. 349, London, Victoria and Albert Geo. Reid Ms. 32, Leiden B.P.L. 224, Brussels, BR 21696, Antwerp, Plantain Moretus Ms. 49, and the Hague K.B. Ms. 74 G 35. The manuscript is comprised of 152 folios and is almost completely intact, lacking only two miniatures, and retains its original brown leather binding decorated with mythological beasts and a now illegible inscription. The calendar is for the use of Utrecht, which helps localize its original ownership, as might a mostly erased ownership inscription that has been partially recovered by Marrow. Hours of the Virgin.






Walters Art Museum Ms. W.7

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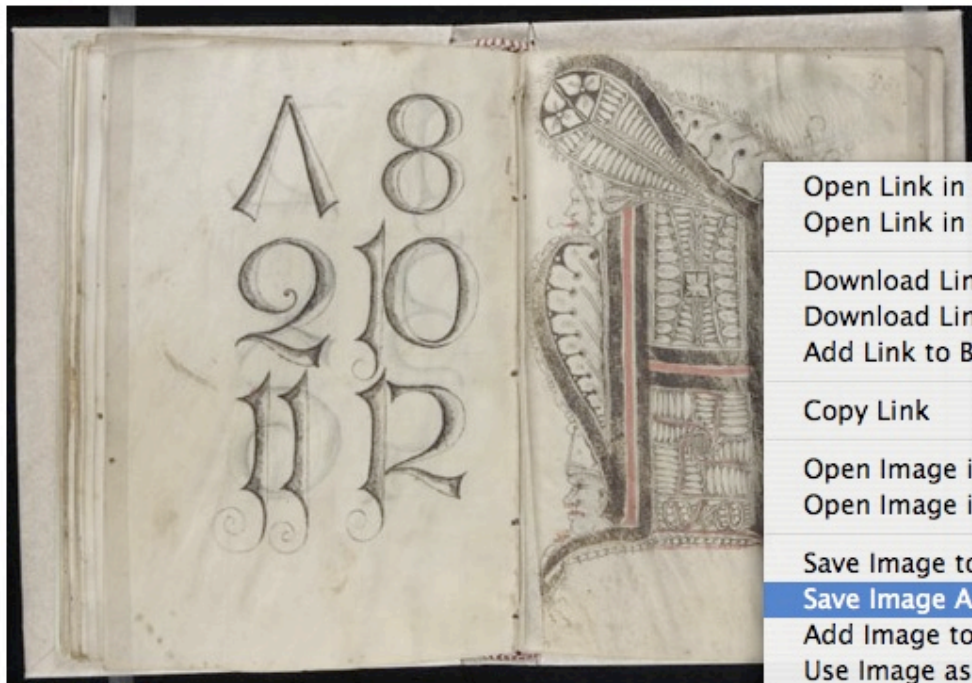
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Folios 37v-38r

A medieval scribal pattern book by Gregorius Bock, ca. 1510-1517 from Swabia, Germany. The codex is composed of two parts: the first illustrates alphabets in various scripts often preceded by a text written in that style and second part of the book is composed of decorative initials arranged in a grid.

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Examples demonstrated include gothic, blackletter, gothic, round humanistic, Batarde, and other styles.

(paper) + 50 + ii (paper), 178 x 125 mm.

Text in the first part begins with initials, primarily white floral grounds. Initials are decorated with penwork border of swirling leaves.

Acquired in 1984 in the Yale University

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"The importance of archival containers and managing containment, or access, persists and perhaps grows more significant in the digital environment. Digital technologies may even make the containers more critical if they incorporate means of maintaining an authentic context and essential evidence for records of enduring value. Digital technologies also make containment both harder and easier"

Beth Yakel

"Thinking Inside and Outside the Boxes: Archival Reference Services at the Turn of the Century"

*Archivaria* 49 (140-160)

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Rebecca Welzenbach, MSI | University of Michigan Library | @rwelzenb







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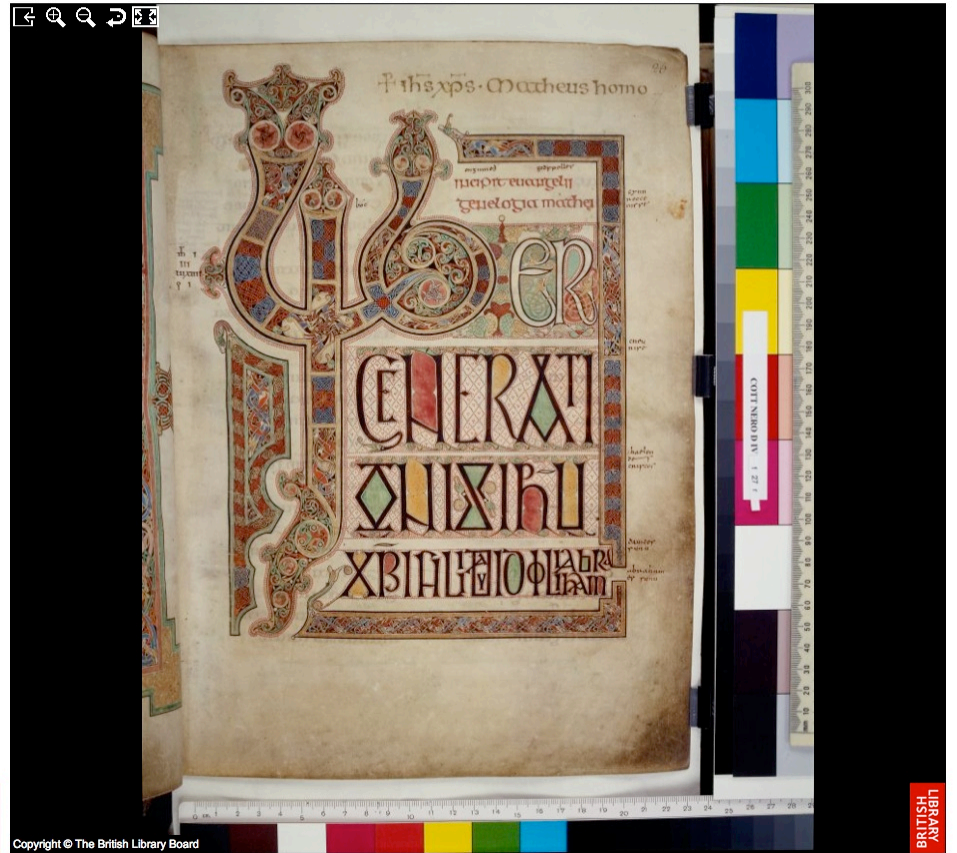
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**New 1.3 Release: 15 April 2011**



**WELCOME**

Corpus Christi College and the Stanford University Libraries welcome you to Parker on the Web - an interactive, web-based workspace designed to support use and study of the manuscripts in the historic Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

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# Parker Library on the Web exceptions:

- "a few manuscripts with paper pages which are badly damaged by moisture, or those with very fragile bindings, which at present cannot be successfully imaged in their totality"
- "A very small number of [...]printed books, mistakenly catalogued as manuscripts in the 18th century, [...] have been excluded."
- project was developed using a catalog published in 1912, though manuscripts acquired after 1912 have also been included (with cataloging provided by the Parker Librarian)



# CORSAIR

The Online Research Resource of The Pierpont Morgan Library  
Images from Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts



## About the Project

Thousands of digital images from The Pierpont Morgan Library's renowned collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts are now available in CORSAIR. The collection spans some ten centuries of Western illumination, and contains manuscripts from all the major schools, including some of the great masterpieces of medieval manuscript art. The images and accompanying descriptions are the product of an extraordinary collaboration between the Library and the Index of Christian Art to photograph, digitize, and describe all significant illustrations within the Morgan's medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. CORSAIR currently offers more than twenty thousand medieval images, and the number is constantly growing.



MS M.81, fol. 69r

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### About the Project

Thousands of digital images from the Morgan Library's renowned collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts are now available online. The project spans some ten centuries and includes manuscripts from all the great masterpieces of the period, including accompanying descriptions, a collaboration between the Morgan and the Walters Art Museum to photograph, digitize, and make available within the Morgan's metadata. CORSAIR currently offers a searchable database of images, and the number of images is growing.















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Walters Art Museum Illuminated Manuscripts > Collections

## Western European Manuscripts

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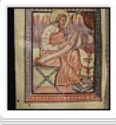


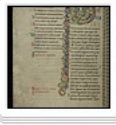


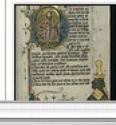

Thousands of digital images of the Morgan Library's renowned collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts are now available online. The project spans some ten centuries and includes some of the great masterpieces of the Middle Ages, including the Lindisfarne Gospels and the Book of Kells. The project is a collaboration between the Morgan and the Walters Art Museum, and is made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project is currently in the process of being digitized, and the number of images available will increase as the project progresses.

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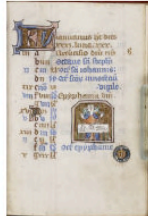







## Western European Manuscripts

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in reply to ↑

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Chris

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 **jweise** John Weise  
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