

# anuscripts on my mind

No. 31	l Septer	mber 2	2020
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Dear colleagues and manuscript lovers, Greetings from my new center of operations



The John Ward Happy Hour: Collaborat ve Transcribing in the Age of Corona For seventeen consecutive weeks





## **Projects**

An Ambit ous Campaign for the Restorat on of Gold and Ivory Treasure Bindings from the Bibliothèque nat onale de France

The Bibliothèque national e de France preserves one of the most important collect ons of treasure bindings in the world, containing ivory plaques and gold metalwork. Around forty manuscripts—mainly from the Manuscripts Department of the Bibliothèque nat onale, but also from the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal—illustrate the history of this luxurious bookbinding from the ffh to the eighteenth century. Due to the ravages of t me and history, such bindings have become extremely rare. They have come down to us in various conditions; some of them are in a bad state of conservation, whereas others are simply dirty or oxidised. In 2016 the Bibliothèque nationale initiated a programme of conservation study, restoration, and digitization of these exceptional bindings. Eleven of them have already been restored, and nine will be restored in 2020. Several will then be exhibited in the new museum of the Bibliothèque nationale, which will open at the end of 2021. Furthermore, once the restoration process is co

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In 1789, the Royal Library bought the Gospel Book of St Gall (Lat n 9453) at the sale of the library of Charles of

The cathedral treasury at Metz was not the c	only one thus singled out	The two	Gospel books of Saint-Sauveur	(Latn 9456 and

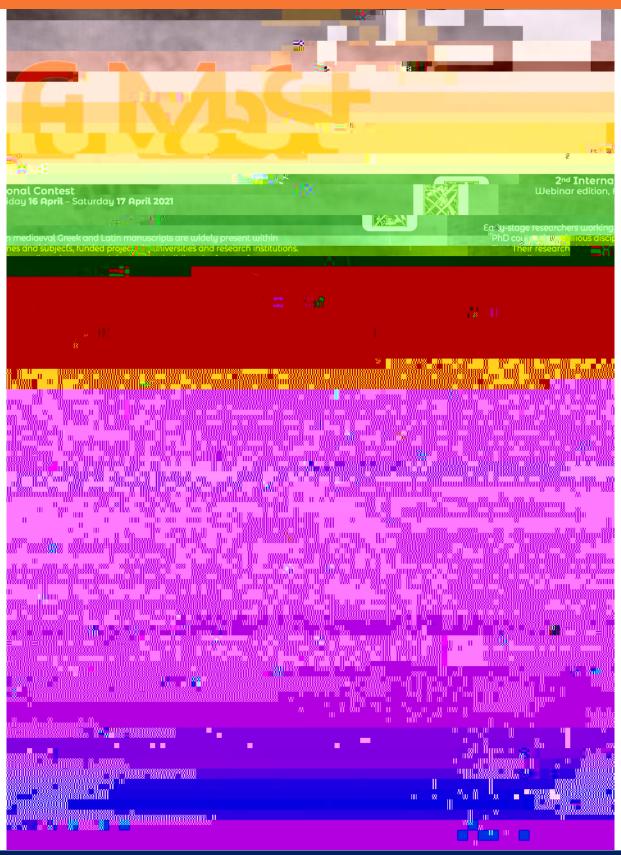
### Nostalgia

#### You always remember your first manuscript

In the summer of 1995, I presented a paper at a biblical manuscripts conference held at Hampton Court, a castle in Herefordshire, UK. The last day of the conference all the speakers were invited to a medieval banquet in the castle, and I was pleasantly surprised to find myself sit in ginexit to Father Leonard Boyle—yes, THE Father Leonard Boyle. I have to admit it made me quite nervous: he had been the plenary speaker at the conference, he was the Prefect of the Vatican Library, he was an amazing scholar—good grief, he was famous! What was I going to talk about over dinner to this great man?!

I needn t have worried. He was warm and charming, and quickly put me at ease. We talked easily and laughed a lot. He knew how to make conversat on with a total stranger, something I was not skilled at. I remember thinking This priest is a bet en date than most dates I ve had!

Marilena Maniaci has sent us this call for papers for the second edit on of their manuscript contest,







#### Scot Gwara, continued

Codices in the sale usually set led in around the reserve, or just below it in post-sale contracts. It s an impressive accomplishment in a COVID economy. A grand Italian paper copy of the *Summa* by Bartholomeus de Sancto Concordio hammered for £28k (lot 132), a strong price. Yet a similarly large copy of Aqui-

## Ant quarian News

**NEWS FROM** 

This Fall, Les Enluminures is proud to present the latest publication in our Satellite Series, titled Go forth and learn: The Art st Joel ben Simeon and a Newly Discovered Hebrew Manuscript.

Born in Germany, where he trained as an art st and scribe and from where he was probably expelled, Joel ben Simeon spent most of his it nerant career in the book arts in northern Italy. We perhaps know more about him—from his colophons and his signed works—than any other illuminator-scribe, Jewish or Christan, in the ff eenth century. He depicts himself as a traveler in one manuscript next to the words Go forth and learn, which we hope to accomplish here.

The discovery of a new manuscript with more than 300 drawings by his hand prompts a reassessment of his career at a time of great religious uncertainty, economic opportunity, and cultural exchange. The scholarly publication, writien by Sandra Hindman and Sharon Liberman Mintz, will be accompanied by a series of digital events:

- -an international Round Table Webinar, co-sponsored by Fordham University, The Center for Jewish Studies, the Department of Art History and Music, and the Medieval Studies Program and Les Enluminures on Thursday October 22, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (Eastern Time).
- -a Podcast, hosted by Sandra Hindman and in conversat on with Sharon Liberman Mintz.
- -a Video and a Turning the Pages feature.

For further informat on, please contact us at info@ lesenluminures.com

on the web: Short

News from the C	enter for Medieval	and Renaissanc	e Studies			
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