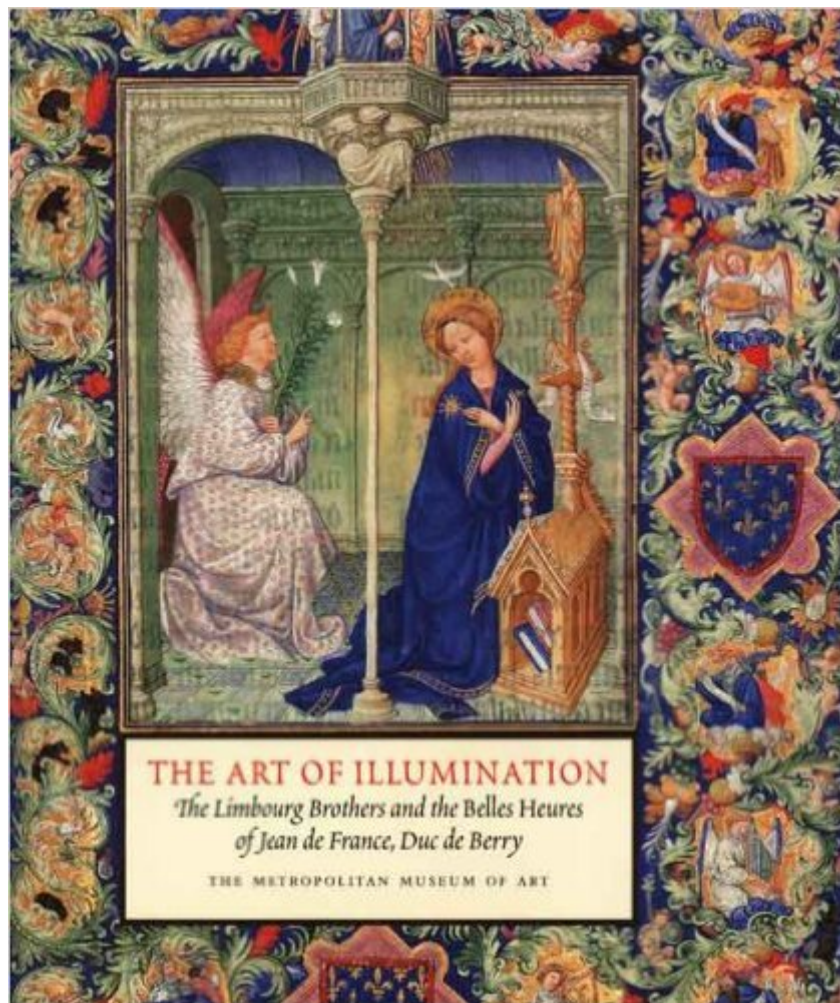


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# The Art Of Illumination: The Limbourg Brothers And The "Belles Heures" Of Jean De France, Duc De Berry (Metropolitan Museum Of Art)



## Synopsis

One of the most lavishly illustrated codices of the Middle Ages, the Belles Heures (1405-1408/9) is the only manuscript executed in its entirety by the famed Limbourg brothers. Commissioned by its magisterial patron, Jean de France, duc de Berry, this richly illuminated Book of Hours, intended for private devotion and now housed in The Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum, counted among the duke's large collection of prized possessions. The luminous scenes depicting the legends of the saints, the Hours of the Virgin, and the like, many with elaborately designed borders, exemplify the transcendent splendor of the Limbourg brothers' talents.

## Book Information

Series: Metropolitan Museum of Art

Hardcover: 376 pages

Publisher: Metropolitan Museum of Art (January 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300136714

ISBN-13: 978-0300136715

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 9.5 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,112,291 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations](#) #325 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Book Design](#) #392 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Calligraphy](#)

## Customer Reviews

This fabulous book, an examination of the earlier masterpiece of the Limbourg Brothers, should be an obligatory purchase for anyone with an interest in illuminated manuscripts. It is astonishing to consider that the three brothers were barely out of their teens when they produced this magnificent Book of Hours between 1405-9. How tragic to realise that they all died in 1416, probably stricken by the plague. All the 223 folios are excellently reproduced in color. Many of the pages are printed in full size; the remainder are seen without their decorative borders. All the illustrations are described and there is some translation of the text. There are interesting biographical articles on the Limbourg Brothers and their patron the duc de Berry. Additionally, there is more detailed discussion of the

Belles Heures. Given the quality of this Metropolitan Museum publication, I regard this book as a bargain given its asking price. I also suggest that those interested in this subject investigate the catalogue entitled *The Limbourg Brothers, Nijmegen Masters at the French Court*. P.S. I have recently seen an exhibition of the dismantled leaves in Paris (Louvre); the total experience was overwhelming for its beauty. While no book could reproduce the purity of the original, is good to have a printed reminder of what was seen.

The catalogue for an exhibition held at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Met in NYC, this is an erudite and wonderfully illustrated book on one of the treasures of Western art. The text is very complete, with an in-depth study of the meaning of the manuscript, a description of the decoration of the pages, a thorough biography of the Limbourg Brothers and of the Duc de Berry, their biggest patron, and a study of their sources and influences. The illustrations are close to perfect, always in color and often full-page, and give an invaluable insight into a universal masterpiece. Highly recommended to anyone interested in the art of illumination.

... for personal devotions! Of course! That was the assumption of people of the social class of the Duc de Berry in the 15th Century! (And don't you wish you'd been one of them?) Going further: Everybody should have an illuminated Book of Hours painted and calligraphed on vellum by exquisitely skilled artisans like the Limbourg Brothers! Unfortunately, illumination of this quality was painstakingly slow and such manuscripts were fantastically expensive, and besides there are simply too many of us and too few surviving manuscripts. So, much as I would give for a Limbourg codex, I don't have one. Do you? There are a few exact facsimiles of such manuscripts on the market, but even those are diabolically expensive. This printed 'catalogue' of the glorious exhibition of the art of the Limbourgs, which I saw at the Metropolitan in New York a few months ago, is the next best thing. The color plates are beautifully printed. The text is intelligent and informative. I carried it home from the exhibition and now I can use it to recollect the illuminations, and I don't even need to jostle elbows! I notice that the amazon price has dropped almost to a merciful modesty. It's still expensive, but well worth the price.

Very pleased with 's service. I asked for a replacement copy of this new book because the dust cover was creased because of the packaging. I got a new delivery very quickly. Using the website for a return coupon was very easy. The book is gorgeous and I was happy to see the manuscripts again as I had seen the show at the Met last year.

Item delivered on time, was as described

Really wanted more of a reproduction of the "Book of Hours," but this book had helpful information that I can use in my classes.

Everything is perfect! Content, illustrations, everything. Very informative and beautiful at the same time. I can spend hours just looking at the illustrations.

This book was a gift and was very well recieved. It has a lot of bacground info on the original book and the english translation (the orignal is in Latin).

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