

Foreword

The Lilly Library has more than four hundred medieval and Renaissance manuscripts and fragments which date from the seventh to the seventeenth centuries and include works from England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and elsewhere. The Library's medieval manuscripts were derived from two main sources: C.L. Ricketts and George A. Poole, both of Chicago, Illinois.

The Ricketts collection was formed by Coella Lindsay Ricketts, (1859-1941), founder of the Scriptorium and one of America's foremost calligraphers, over a period of more than fifty years. It consists of sixty volumes and more than two hundred fragments of carefully chosen pieces that had relevance to Ricketts's own work. Dating from the ninth to the seventeenth centuries, the collection emphasizes the preprinting development of Roman script, especially of capital letters. Included are a generous representation of secular works as well as examples of Bibles, psalters, missals, antiphonaries, graduals, and Books of Hours. The Lilly Library purchased the Ricketts collection in 1961 from the family of C.L. Ricketts. In addition to the medieval items, the family generously included the files of extensive correspondence between Ricketts and Sir Sydney Cockerell, Cyril Davenport, Frederic W. Goudy, Stanley Morison, Alfred W. Pollard, Seymour de Ricci, and many others, as well as numerous examples of Ricketts's own calligraphic and illuminated works.

Though less extensive than the Ricketts collection, the Poole collection is of equal interest and value to students and scholars of printing and art history. George A. Poole, Jr., a printing company executive, intended his collection to document and illustrate the history of the development of Roman type. Thus the 130 manuscript items were acquired to supplement his fine collection of early printed books. Purchased by the Lilly Library in 1958, the Poole collection contains the Library's earliest Latin writing and our Anglo-Saxon fragments.

More detailed descriptions of these two collections may be found in the "Report of the Rare Book Librarian, Lilly Library, Indiana University, July 1958-June 1959" (Poole) and "Report of the Rare Book Librarian . . . July 1, 1961-June 30, 1963" (Ricketts).

A few individual medieval manuscripts and fragments have been purchased by or donated to the Lilly during the past thirty years. These items have been organized and catalogued into a collection titled Medieval and Renaissance mss. This collection presently contains nine volumes and eleven fragments, again of both secular and religious medieval works. Included are two extremely fine fifteenth-century French Books of Hours that were part of the Elisabeth Ball library, donated to the Lilly in 1983. The most important secular medieval piece added during the past few years is an early fifteenth-century Latin manuscript of Marco Polo's travels to the Orient in the latter part of the thirteenth century. Of Flemish/French origin, the manuscript predates the first printed edition of his accounts by more than fifty years. The manuscript was part of the W.E.D. Allen collection acquired by the Lilly in 1976.

With the exception of the recently received Elisabeth Ball items, the Marco Polo piece, and two or three others in the Medieval and Renaissance collection, most of Lilly's medieval pieces are represented in Seymour de Ricci's *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*, volume 1 (Ricketts collection, under Illinois, Chicago, Coella Lindsay Ricketts) and the Supplement volume (Poole, and Medieval and Renaissance collections, under Indiana, Indiana University).

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