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**SUPERB FLEMISH ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS TO BE
EXHIBITED AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM BEGINNING
JANUARY 22**

*SHOW COMPLEMENTS THE LANDMARK EXHIBITION DEMONS AND DEVOTION:
THE HOURS OF CATHERINE OF CLEVES*

****Press Preview: Thursday, January 21, 2010, 10 a.m. until noon**
RSVP: (212) 590.0393, media@themorgan.org**

New York, NY, November 30, 2009—The fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries saw the last great flowering of Flemish illumination. As a complement to The Morgan Library & Museum’s exhibition of *The Hours of Catherine of Cleves*, which goes on view January 22, 2010, a separate show of eighteen illuminated Books of Hours from the area of and around Flanders (part of modern Belgium) will be presented. *Flemish Illumination in the Era of Catherine of Cleves* opens simultaneously with the Cleves exhibition and runs through May 2 in the Morgan’s Clare Eddy Thaw Gallery.



St. George Slaying the Dragon, Book of Hours, in Latin, Belgium, Bruges, ca. 1450, illuminated by the Master of Jean Chevrot. The Morgan Library & Museum; MS M.421, fol. 23v.

The Flemish manuscripts provide intriguing iconographic and stylistic points of comparison with miniatures from Catherine’s great manuscript. All the works in the show are from the Morgan’s holdings, and each at its heart contains the Hours of the Virgin, a sequence of prayers to the mother of God that were ideally recited throughout the course of the day.

The exhibition includes examples from major illuminators from this prolific creative period encompassing the late Middle Ages and the northern Renaissance. On view are works by Lieven van Lathem and Willem Vrelant, two artists who collaborated with, and were influenced by the creator of the Cleves manuscript, known as “the Master of Catherine of Cleves.”

Simon Bening (1483/84–1561), considered one of the greatest Flemish illuminators, is represented by three manuscripts at the center of the exhibition. The Da Costa Hours, known after its second owner, Don Alvaro da Costa, is a masterpiece infused with lush landscapes, beautiful borders, and keen observation of detail. The manuscript will be open to the startling image of *All Martyrs*, illustrating the numerous ways over the centuries by which Christians have been put to death for their faith.

The second manuscript by Bening depicts the *Flight of Egypt*. It exemplifies Bening's interest in documenting landscape and weather conditions and includes extraordinarily observed details. For example, in the background to the right of the Virgin's head, a tiny gold statue has toppled from a column on a hill, signifying the collapse of the old pagan world. The third manuscript by Bening is the Van Damme Book of Hours depicting a dramatic night scene: *The Annunciation to the Shepherds*.

Other highlights in the exhibition include a Book of Hours painted by the Master of Jean Chevrot illustrating *St. George Slaying the Dragon*. The image is reminiscent of panel paintings by Jan van Eyck in its attention to detail in the armor, the birds in the sky, and the dragon's genitals.

The exhibition is organized by Roger S. Wieck, curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at The Morgan Library & Museum.

This exhibition is underwritten by a major grant from the B. H. Breslauer Foundation.



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The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. More than a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Admission

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.