

## FACTSHEET

**Exhibition:** *Pages of Gold: Medieval Illuminations from the Morgan*

**Press Preview:** Thursday, June 18, 2009, 10 AM to NOON

**Dates:** June 19 through September 13, 2009

**Summary:** This exhibition comprises approximately sixty lavish single leaves and cutouts, dating from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. Pierpont Morgan, the preeminent collector of complete medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, also acquired single pages, as did many collectors before him, who developed an appreciation for these orphaned works during the nineteenth century. A dozen are on view for the first time.

**Content:** The centerpiece of the exhibition is the finest leaf from the celebrated Winchester Bible, arguably the most lavish English Bible of its time. Made in Winchester during the last quarter of the twelfth century, it contains vivid scenes from the lives of Samuel and David and was the last leaf acquired by Pierpont Morgan before his death in 1913. Also on view are leaves from a book made for Hungarian nobility, cuttings of initials and leaves from illuminated choir books, and works of the infamous Spanish Forger, a twentieth-century painter who successfully forged numerous medieval manuscripts and leaves.

The illuminations are grouped first by country of origin and then chronologically.

- England
- Italy
- France
- Belgium
- Bohemia
- Germany
- Spain

**Organization and Sponsors:**

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of T. Robert Burke and Katherine States Burke, Melvin R. Seiden, and an anonymous donor.

*Pages of Gold: Medieval Illuminations from the Morgan* is organized by William M. Voelkle, curator and department head of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, The Morgan Library & Museum.

**Education and Programs:**

On Friday, June 19, 7 pm, Roger S. Wieck, Curator, Department of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, in an illustrated lecture, will trace the history of collecting individual folios sliced from medieval illuminated manuscripts, a phenomenon that encompasses fifteenth-century piety, the nineteenth-century Gothic Revival, and twenty-first-century eBay.

On Friday, July 17, 7 pm, William Voelkle, Curator and organizer of *Pages of Gold* will give a gallery talk on the exhibition.

The Morgan offers a number of special programs held in conjunction with its exhibitions. For more information, please contact the Education department at (212) 590-0333.

**About the Morgan:** 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. 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 new 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.

**Hours and  
Location:**

The Morgan is located at 225 Madison Avenue at 36<sup>th</sup> Street in New York and open Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 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 and 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:** Adults \$12; children (under 16) \$8; seniors (65 and over) \$8; students (with current ID) \$8; free to members and children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

**General  
Information:**

(212) 685-0008 or [www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

*For further information please contact:*

*Sandra Ho, The Morgan Library & Museum (212) 590-0311 / [sho@themorgan.org](mailto:sho@themorgan.org)*