

Press Release

Masterpiece London 28 June - 4 July 2018
(Preview 27 June)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME: FROM MATINS TO MARS

Daniel Crouch Rare Books (DCRB) is teaming up with Les Enluminures for their stand at Masterpiece this summer. Taking inspiration from the recent exhibition on medieval time at the Morgan Library, their joint display will explore methods of marking and keeping time throughout history.

Telling time

The exhibition begins with telling the time: with a Book of Hours from Les Enluminures, which takes its name from the prayers recited eight times a day, marking the hours of devotion. DCRB will show a sixteenth century calendar that allows the user to mark the length of a day, the days of the month, and the zodiac.



Left: *Book of Hours (Use of Rouen)*. Rouen, 1490. Right: [Anonymous] *Roemischer Kalender auss der Geometrica*. [?Nuremberg or Augsburg, second half of sixteenth century].

LES ENLUMINURES

Les Enluminures
is based in Paris, New York and Chicago. The gallery specializes in illuminated manuscripts and miniatures from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and also handles rings and jewelry from the same periods.

DANIEL
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BOOKS

Daniel Crouch Rare Books
is a specialist dealer in antique atlases, maps, plans, sea charts and voyages dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

For further information,
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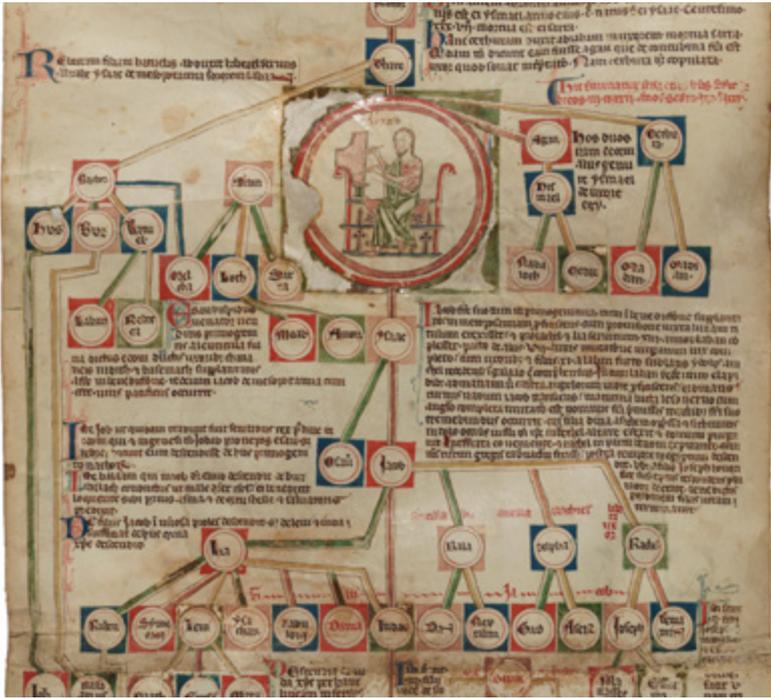
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Historical time

Trying to fix events in history was a powerful motive for marking time. DCRB's work by Petrus Apianus contains lavish paper instruments, enabling the reader to trace historical astronomical phenomena, like the eclipse that supposedly happened during the Crucifixion. Les Enluminures' illuminated manuscript roll covering the history of the genealogy of Christ, the only recorded pre-1300 roll in private hands, aims to present the Bible as a narrative describing real people by juxtaposing sacred and secular events.



PICTAVIENSIS, Petrus [Peter of Poitiers]. *Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi*. England (perhaps Oxford?), c.1230-1250.



APIANUS, Petrus. *Astronomicum Caesareum*. Ingolstadt, Peter Apian, 1540.

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Eternal time

Another astronomical work from DCRB, by Andreas Cellarius, shows the planetary and zodiac systems of different cultures, and the different methods by which eternity was understood. A second Book of Hours from Les Enluminures contains wonderfully decorated miniatures of sacred scenes, including the Last Judgement, encouraging the reader to reflect on the eternity of sacred time.



Workshop of the Master of Raoul d'Ailly. *Hours of Philippote de Nanterre (Use of Amiens)*. Amiens, c.1420s.



CELLARIUS, Andreas. *Harmonia Macrocosmica*. Amsterdam, Johannes Janssonius, 1661.

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Memento mori

But although time might be eternal, life is not, as Les Enluminures' memento mori skull pendant reminds the viewer. Containing the relics of three saints, it would have prompted the owner to greater piety in anticipation of the afterlife. DCRB's globe of Mars by Emmy Ingeborg Brun shows a different approach: Brun believed Mars could be repurposed as a socialist utopia when mankind's time on earth ran out.



Memento Mori Skull Pendant. German, seventeenth century.



BRUN, Emmy Ingeborg. *Mars after Lowell's Globber 1894-1914.* Denmark, 1909.

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Ends

Notes to the Editors

Les Enluminures is based in Paris, New York and Chicago. The gallery specializes in illuminated manuscripts and miniatures from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and also handles rings and jewelry from the same periods. All galleries are by appointment only.

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Daniel Crouch Rare Books is a specialist dealer in antique atlases, maps, plans, sea charts and voyages dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm.

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