



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and Les Enluminures Gallery proudly announce the restitution of an important manuscript to its rightful home at the University Library in Wrocław. The manuscript was identified as having been stolen from the library in 1989.

The manuscript, titled "Augustinus, Aurelius. Confessions. De baptismo contra Donatistas. De libero arbitrio voluntatis. De divinatione demonum. De diversis quaestionibus ad Simplicianum," was acquired by Les Enluminures Gallery at auction in 2024. Despite thorough due diligence, at that time its provenance did not raise any concern due to the absence of record of the theft in academic literature.

At the beginning of 2025, Les Enluminures Gallery was approached by Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland after new research cast doubt on the legitimate provenance of the manuscript.

After extensive research, conducted with the gallery's active collaboration, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland was finally able to determine the provenance of the manuscript originating from the University Library in Wrocław.

On February 12, 2026, a formal restitution ceremony was held at the Polish Embassy in France in the presence of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marta Cienkowska, where Les Enluminures Gallery officially returned the manuscript to the Polish authorities. The event underscored the importance of international cooperation in protecting cultural heritage and combating the illicit trade of art and manuscripts.

Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the constructive dialogue that led to this resolution.

Please contact us for high resolution images and descriptions of the featured work of art.

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