

A History of the Collection



The Library of the Dukes of Burgundy has justifiably been considered, since the Middle Ages, to be one of the most splendid collections of Western civilisation. Begun by Philippe le Hardi and continued by his successors, Jean sans Peur and Philippe le Bon, the Library had by the time of the death of Charles le Téméraire in 1477 reached 950 volumes.

From an artistic and literary perspective many of the works had even in their own day gained an international reputation. We need only mention the *Peterborough Psalter*, the *Chroniques et conquestes de Charlemagne*, Jean Mansel's *Fleur des Histoires*, the three-volume *Chroniques de Hainaut*, the *Très Belles Heures du Duc de Berry* or even Aristotle's *Ethics*.

The dukes were committed and enthusiastic book-collectors who were interested in all fields of learning. Literature, history, science, moral philosophy and the classics all attracted their attention. In order to expand and embellish their collection the dukes called upon the greatest artists of the period. Their constant demand for books drew together large numbers of translators, copyists, scribes and illuminators.

Notwithstanding the wars and conflicts of these centuries, the book production under the patronage of successive dukes was spectacularly glamorous. But, like all medieval collections, it has suffered at the hands of history and the Burgundian Library has been dispersed, pillaged and in part lost.

Nonetheless, despite what are probably irreparable losses, almost 270 volumes are still held in the Manuscripts Department of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek / Bibliothèque royale in Brussels. This project provides a fresh analysis and an inventoried electronic catalogue. Furthermore, thanks to digitisation these manuscripts, whose access has up till now been heavily restricted, can be examined in the best of environments by scholars everywhere.

La Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne on CD-ROM

This project focuses on 270 extant codices from the Library of the Dukes of Burgundy. For each manuscript every miniature (illustration, marginal decoration, historiated initial etc.) and a large number of the key folios of the text (incipit, explicit, colophon, prologue, tables of contents etc.) have been photographed and these will all be available on the CD-ROMs. The number of images will reach 7000. Each image is linked to a detailed manuscript description and an index, using today's analytical methods. To produce such a database each manuscript has been examined following a template which considers its codicological, historical, textual and artistic elements. These descriptions complete and bring up-to-date the catalogues of *Van de Gheyn* and *Gaspar & Lyma*. They also contain commentaries on the state of academic scholarship, new developments in research and an up-to-date bibliography.



The Contents

CD-Rom I	Liturgical, ascetical, theological, philosophical and moral writings
CD-Rom II	Didactic writings
CD-Rom III	Literary works and law books
CD-Rom IV	Historical writings
CD-Rom V	Hagiographical, classical writings, Bibles and books of the Bible

La Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne on CD-ROM (e-LDB)

The Library of the Dukes of Burgundy is published by Brepols Publishers together with the Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, under the direction of Bernard Bousmanne, with the assistance of Eddy Van Dale, Céline Van Hoorebeek and Frédérique Johan.

The following authors have worked on the text database: Alain Arnould o.p., Marguerite Debae, Ann Kelders, Claudine Lemaire, Sophie Somers, Christiane Van den Bergen-Pantens, Céline Van Hoorebeek, Dominique Vanwijnsberghe and Bernard Bousmanne. The images have been photographed by Bart Huysmans.

Hardware requirements

Minimum configuration is an PC Pentium, Windows 95 or higher and a CD-Rom drive. Minimal resolution: 800 x 600 ; 12 MB RAM memory and 12 MB central memory.

Prices

Standard price: € 1250

Each CD-Rom as a subscription to the series: € 1125

Price for individual users: € 500

Network License: please contact Brepols Publishers

(Prises exclude VAT)

Orders and enquiries

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La Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne on CD-Rom (e-LDB)

A unique project with 7000 full-colour images, codicological and iconographical descriptions and an updated bibliography



e-LDB I

**Liturgical, ascetical, theological,
philosophical and moral writings**

(KBR) BIBLIOTHÈQUE ROYALE DE BELGIQUE

BREPOLS  PUBLISHERS

La Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne on CD-ROM (e-LDB)

The series dedicated to the "Librairie des ducs de Bourgogne (e-LDB)" gathers the entire collection of ducal manuscripts held in the Royal Library of Belgium.

Instead of a corpus by shelfmark, or by dateable manuscripts, we have opted to classify the manuscripts by genre which we believe better reflects the particular character of the Burgundy library. The current volume (e-LDB I) comprises the liturgical, ascetical, theological, philosophical and moral manuscripts.

Future publications, planned for the coming months, will deal with biblical, hagiographical, didactic, legal, literary, historical and classical texts. The final CD-Rom will bring together several cumulative indexes (an index of manuscripts cited, index of names, iconographical index, and so forth), a list of incipits and a general bibliography.

Main Menu screen



Access to the Complete List

Access to the Search Screen

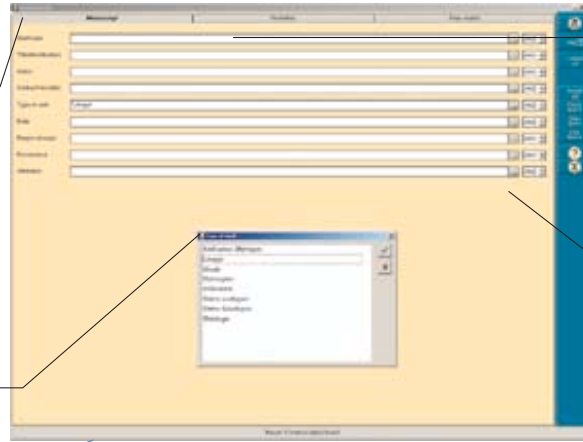
The "Background Articles" provide comments on the history of the Library of the dukes of Burgundy, certain political, literary or artistic personalities, literary work or even stylistic trend relating to this collection.

The general bibliography lists in alphabetical order the reference publications and the works most frequently cited.

Search screen

Searches can be performed within any of three subscreens: the first dedicated to searching the elements detailed in the physical and material description of each manuscript, the second to searching the image-bank of illustrations, and the third to free searches.

Most fields are provided with pull-down menus in which all the different occurrences can be found



The search screen comprises several fields and allows complex searching with Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and wildcard (* or ?).

Filters allow restricting the search criteria.

Hitlist



This result screen lists the manuscripts by its current classification and the book identification.

Hitlist: List of manuscripts and folio survey

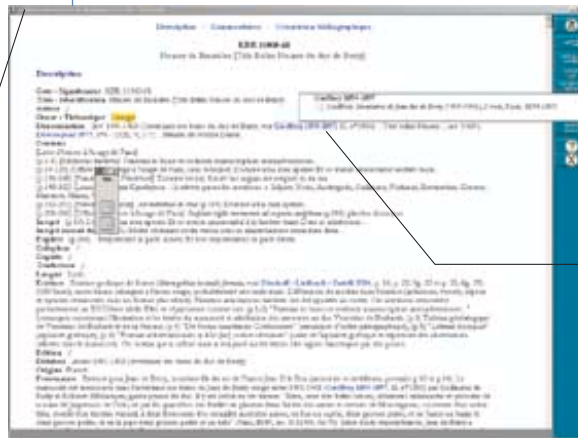


The folio survey appears after clicking on the manuscript identification.

Show the manuscript description.

Manuscript Description

The textual database comprises all the descriptive notes of the manuscripts. The descriptive notes describe each manuscript from the codicological, historical, textual and iconographic points of view. They consist of three components: the material description, the comments and the bibliographic orientation.



Hyperlinks in the text refer to the Bibliography and Background Articles.

Folio

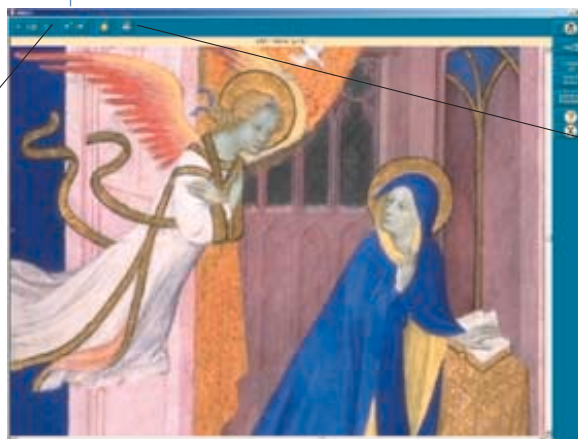
Once the folio has been selected, it is displayed on the screen with the manuscript classification and the number of the folio consulted. Two folios can be compared on the same screen.



Show the manuscript description.

Folio

The enlargement of illustrations is possible by means of the magnifying glass + or by selecting a part of the image.



The folios can be printed by clicking on the "printer" button in the horizontal tool bar.