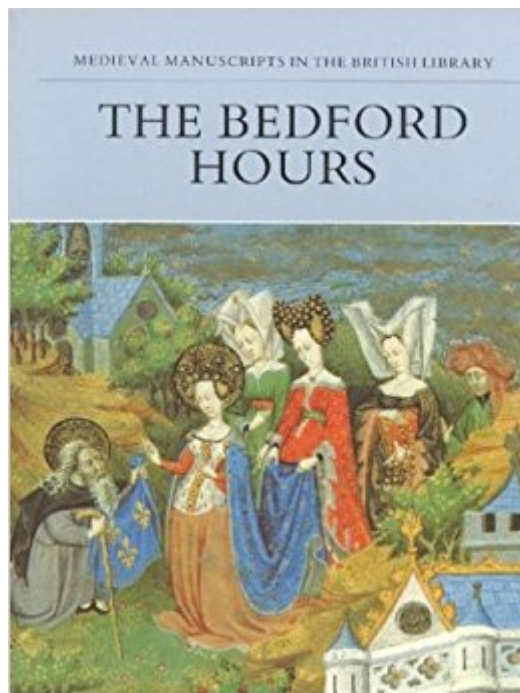




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Synopsis

The Bedford Hours is one of Britain's major treasures. An outstanding example of late medieval manuscript art, it was written and illuminated in the early 15th century for John, Duke of Bedford, younger brother of King Henry V, and his wife, Anne of Burgundy. The principal artist of the leading Parisian workshop in which it was produced takes his name, the 'Bedford Master' from his English patron. Expertly planned and professionally executed, The Bedford Hours is celebrated for the enormous range of its pictorial scheme, with many superb large miniatures in brilliant colours, and exquisite marginal details. Here Janet Backhouse examines the overall design of the Hours, discussing the historical background to its production and ownership, with 60 colour and black-and-white plates showing full pages and details beautifully reproduced from the manuscript.

Book Information

Series: Medieval Manuscripts in the British Libr Series

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Customer Reviews

Janet Backhouse was curator of illuminated manuscripts at The British Library. She is the author of many books, including *The Illuminated Manuscript*, *The Lindisfarne Gospels*, *Books of Hours*, *The Becket Leaves* and *The Luttrell Psalter*.

The book provides 27 beautiful full page colour photos for the viewer to enjoy. There are also black and white examples, all on good quality paper which helps reveal the quality and detail of each page. There is some description and history but I feel the book is mostly for the pictorial display. I am very pleased with this book and it is well worth the money. It enhances my modest library of

Medieval Manuscripts.

I am very pleased with the illuminations in this book. A good source for my work.

A modestly mediocre production with pale pasty insipid colourings. A useful introduction for those who are not collectors and priced reasonably accordingly

Like most of Janet Backhouse's work, this is an excellent, concise study of a particular manuscript in the collection of the British Library. This particular manuscript is a 15th c. book of hours, commissioned from a Parisian workshop by John, Duke of Bedford. The text reads easily. Ms. Backhouse covers a short history of the Duke, to place the book in context, and follows with a modestly comprehensive study of the book as an art object. The book contains around 60 plates, some in black and white, some in color. There are about as many full page illustrations as there are text pages, so the book makes a very suitable visual reference for book artists wanting to illuminate in the style of the Bedford Master. All in all, a very nice, short study of a justifiably famous medieval manuscript.

Beautiful!

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