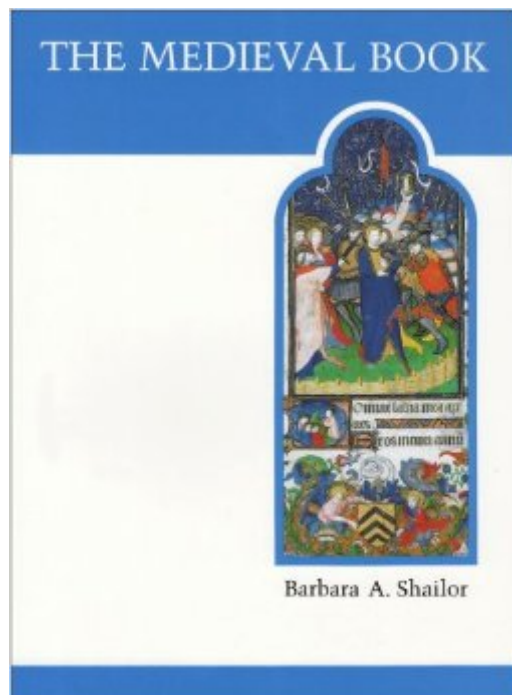


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Synopsis

For centuries philologists, linguists, and historians have read medieval books to study the language of a given work or to establish an accurate and readable text. Art historians also have considered illuminated manuscripts as important repositories for works of art. But in recent decades new interest has developed in the over-all physical format of the medieval book and its historical context â€” how manuscript books were made and how they have deepened our understanding of the intellectual and social milieu of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. One of the richest storehouses of early manuscripts is Yale Universityâ€™s Beinecke Library. Its collection provides the basis for Barbara Shailorâ€™s fully illustrated study of the medieval book and its place in society. Shailor first examines the manuscript books as an archaeological artifact of a period when mass-production was unknown and every volume had to be written and assembled by hand. She then groups books by genre â€” both religious and secular â€” to show how the contents of a volume and its function within society influenced its physical appearance and the way in which it was produced. A brief look at the transition from manuscript to printed book concludes the survey. Originally published by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1988, this work has quickly become an indispensable guide for scholars in a wide range of medieval studies.

Book Information

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This book covers the process of the creation of the book in the Middle Ages. It contains detailed

photographs and facsimile pages of manuscripts in various stages: ruled for writing, written and awaiting illumination, waiting for binding, and in use. Some of the details provided in Ms. Shailor's book are wonderful and rarely found in other affordable books on the subject. Further, the manuscripts selected for study are not limited to the best-of-the-best books made for the nobility and the church, as is usually seen, but also includes information on manuscripts made for every day life. Individuals interested in the actual tools and processes of making medieval manuscript books would be well-served if they obtained this book.

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