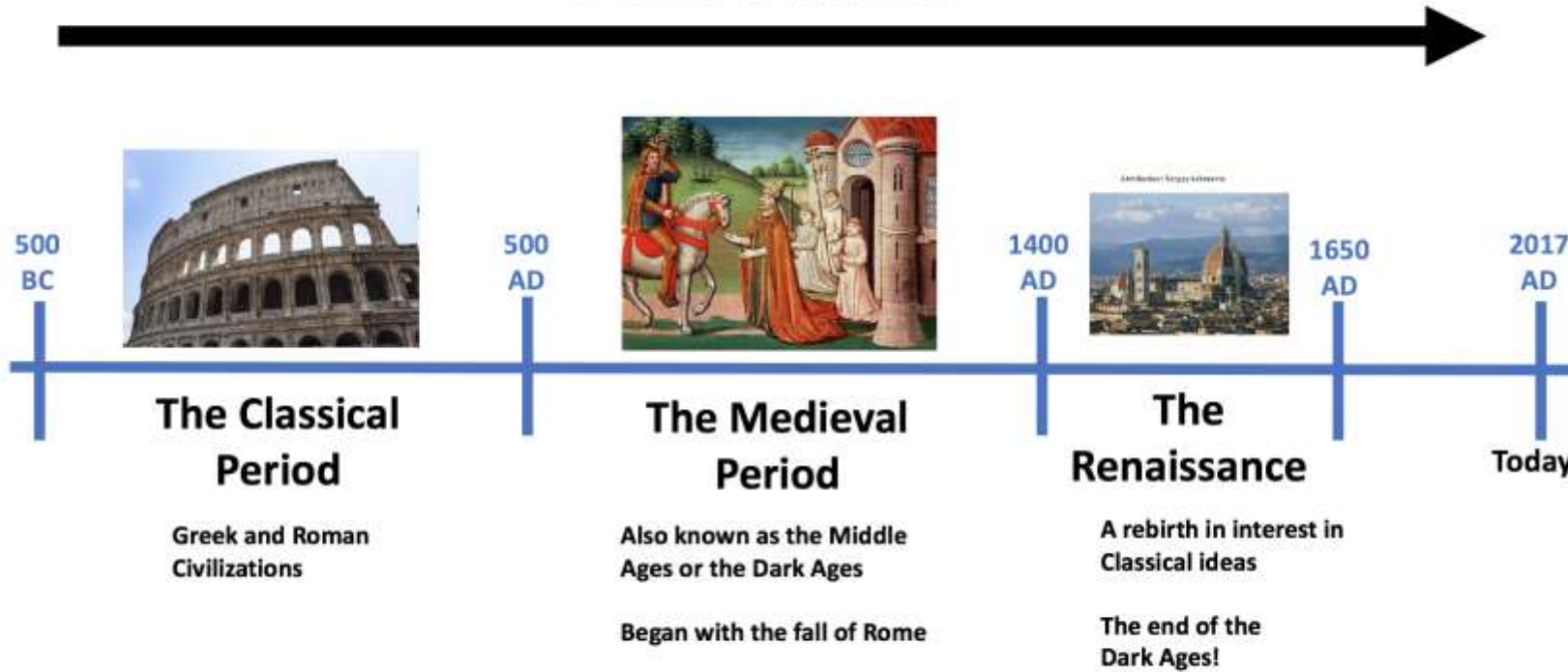


Medieval Art

500 AD – 1400 AD

Timeline



Classical Period (Greece and Roman Civilization)

The classical period covers the height of Greek culture and the peak of the Roman Empire. This time lasted from about 500 B.C. to 500 A.D. The people of these ancient societies developed many of the ideas that today make up our math, science, literature, and art. Many modern ideas about democracy and the legal system originated from this time period.

The artists from ancient Greece and Rome were well known for their murals, sculptures, and painted pottery.

Characteristics of Classical Period

- Figures were often nude or semi-nude.
- If figures were wearing clothes, they were draped in robes called togas.
- Art showed people leading active and healthy lifestyles.
- People were portrayed as being thoughtful and intelligent.
- Art focused on people doing tasks of everyday life.
- People were viewed as heroic and important.

Introduction of Medieval

- The term “medieval” refers to the period in Europe immediately following the fall of Western Roman Empire and merged into the Renaissance and the **Age of Discovery**.

- The medieval period is also known as the **Middle Ages or the Dark Ages** and it lasted from about **500 A.D. to 1400 A.D.**

- The medieval period is the rise of the system known as **feudalism** as well as the dominance of the Catholic Church.
- During this time in Europe, most people were poor serfs who could not read or write.

The artists from the medieval period were skilled at paintings, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts and tapestries



Painting



Tapestry



Statue

*Illuminated
Manuscript*



Characteristics of Medieval Art

- Art was almost entirely about religion and teaching Bible stories to people who could not read.



- Important figures were large
- Figures looked very stiff, not realistic and without much emotion.
- Figures were fully clothed, often draped in clothing.
- Faces looked sad or serious, which reflected daily life for many people in the Middle Ages.

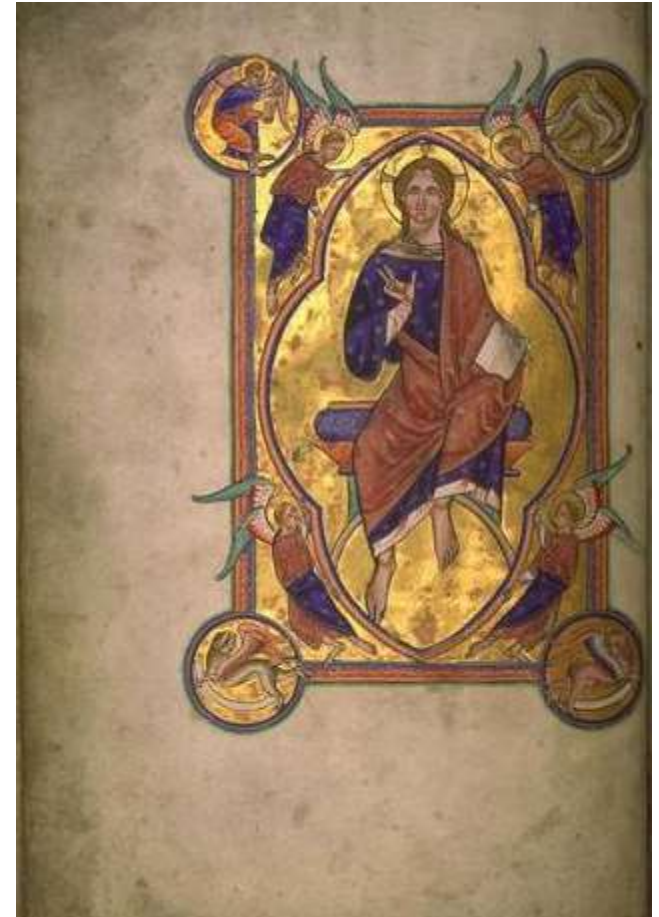


- Artists used colors that were too bright (unrealistically so) and often had a background of a single color.



Medieval Manuscripts (illuminations and Illustration)

First time book started in a form during Medieval Period.
Book illumination started.

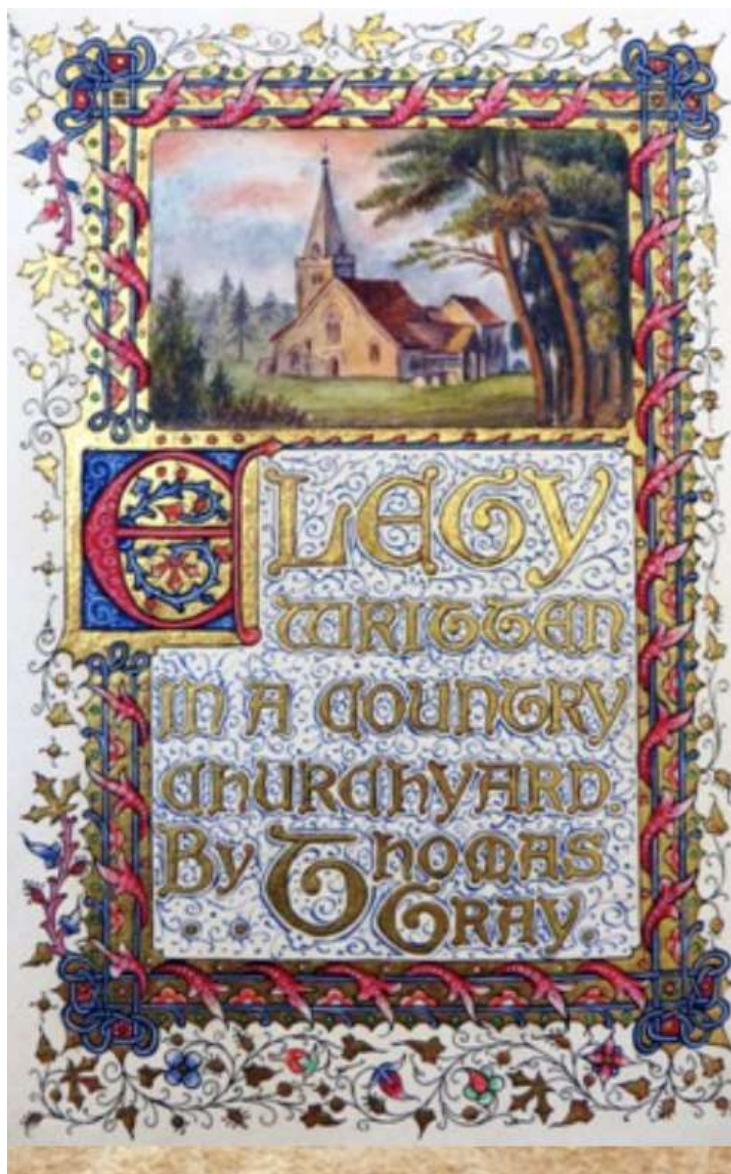


What is Manuscript?

- **manuscript** evolved from the Latin manu scriptus, meaning “**written** by hand.” Manu is “hand” and scriptus is “to **write**.”
- It refers to old documents actually **written** by hand before books were made, but it **can** also refer to a **writer's** unpublished work whether it's handwritten or typed.

What is Illuminated Manuscript?

- In the most strict definition of the term, an illuminated manuscript only refers to manuscripts decorated with gold or silver.



History

- Earliest surviving script from AD 400-600
- Developed in the Eastern Roman Empire
- Earliest surviving illuminated manuscripts date from 400 to 600 AD
- Of the remainder of surviving illuminated manuscripts...
 1. Most are from the Middle Ages
 2. Many are from the Renaissance
 3. Very few from Late Antiquity

The text is supplemented by the addition of decoration

- Decorated initials
- Borders (marginalia)
- Miniature illustrations





Black Hours
by Ceoil (Public Domain)



- The majority of these manuscripts depict the Christian Religion
- Although, from the 13th century and onward, an increasing number of secular texts were illuminated



- Most medieval manuscripts, illuminated or not, were written on parchment
- Calf, sheep, or goat skin
- Most manuscripts important enough to illuminate were written on high quality parchment called vellum.
- VERY FEW illuminated manuscript fragments survive on papyrus.

- Illumination was a complex and frequently costly process.
- The Written portion was executed by a SCRIBE
- The Illustration or Illumination was done by an Illuminator
- Sometimes one person did both jobs, sometimes they were separate.

- The artists that created the images for manuscripts was called an 'Illuminator'
- Some artists opened shops for selling their skills to design 'illumination'
- Often were monks who specialized in the production of manuscripts in separate areas called 'scriptoriums'



Technique

- The text was written first • Sheets of parchment or vellum were cut down to size • The page was slightly ruled with a pointed stick • The scribe then went to work with an ink pot and either a sharpened quill feather or a reed pen.
- **Techniques: Text** One of the most important features in the production of an illuminated manuscript is the amount of time that was spent in the pre-production stages outlining the work.
- **Techniques: Illumination** • The illumination and decoration was normally planned at the inception of the work, and space reserved for it. • Complex designs were planned out beforehand, probably on wax tablets, the sketch pad of the era. • The design was then traced or drawn onto the vellum.

- **Use of Gold** • Early on, a manuscript was not considered illuminated unless the illustrations contained gold. • Burnishing: the process of brushing on gold specks • Scribes considered using gold as a praise to God • Gold was used if the patron who commissioned the book wished to display his vast wealth

Techniques: Illumination

- While the use of gold is by far one of the most captivating features of illuminated manuscripts, the bold use of varying colors provided multiple layers of dimension to the illumination.
- Color brought the images on the page to life and captivated the readers. Without color the impact of the image would have been completely lost.



- **Manuscripts are among the most common items to survive from** the Middle Ages; many thousands survive.
- They are also the best surviving specimens of medieval painting, and the best preserved.
- Indeed, for many areas and time periods, they are the only surviving examples of painting

- <https://slideplayer.com/slide/6881646/>