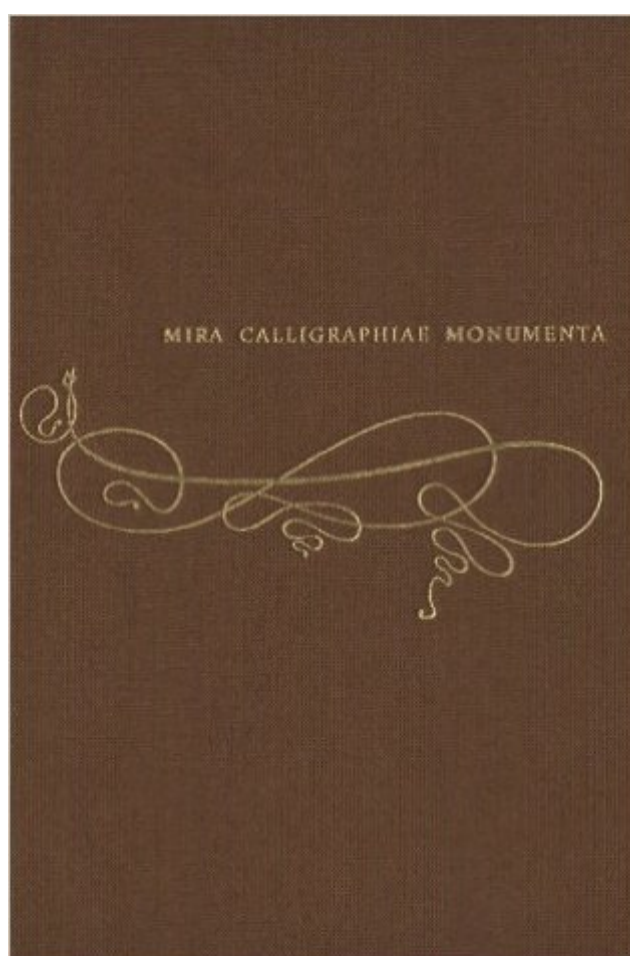


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Mira Calligraphiae Monumenta: A Sixteenth-century Calligraphic Manuscript Inscribed By Georg Bocskay And Illuminated By Joris Hoefnagel



Synopsis

In 1561-62, Georg Bocskay, imperial secretary to the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand I, inscribed the *Mira calligraphiae monumenta* as a testament to his preeminence among scribes. He assembled a vast selection of contemporary and historical scripts, which nearly thirty years later were further embellished by Joris Hoefnagel, Europe's last great manuscript illuminator. This book, now in the collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum, is reproduced here in complete facsimile form, accompanied by a commentary that includes a full description; a discussion of its patron, Rudolf II, and his cultural and historical milieu; the biographies of Hoefnagel and Bocskay; and an analysis of the manuscript's role in their careers. The introduction discusses the broader issues raised by the manuscript. Topics include Hoefnagel's nature imagery, which encompasses plants, fruits, and small animals, and its relation to the spread of interest in botany and zoology at the end of the sixteenth century. Another topic is calligraphy and its place in the art and culture of the sixteenth century. The manuscript's remarkable calligraphy will be of particular interest not only to scholars but to collectors, graphic designers, and typographers as well.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent reproduction of an exquisite manuscript produced during the last phases of the hand-written, hand-illuminated book. The introductory texts are concerned primarily with the history of the two artists responsible for the creation of this work, with some space devoted to its provenance and patron. The majority of pages are, of course, devoted to the plates themselves; no words can do justice to the art displayed therein. Commentary on the plates is mostly limited to

identification of the various flora and fauna displayed on the pages

This is simply an amazing reproduction of a book that was beautifully created by hand. I use it repeatedly for inspiration and to remind myself that art, be it calligraphic or pictorial, will long outlive and outlast those who create it. I've had people request motifs done in similar manner and like-treatment to other flora and fauna as well as lettering styles. Many to whom I show this book just can't put it down for its beauty. The original is a masterpiece, the reproduction does justice to the original work and places it into the hands of the average person. If you cannot afford to purchase it, I recommend asking your library to purchase it

I love this volume! It has an amazing variety of virtuoso calligraphy combined with marvelous illuminations of fruits, flowers, and small creatures. It's a sampler of everything a very imaginative calligrapher could put on a page. The text is interesting and informative. It was a good buy!

Nothing to add to other reviews, this is just a great masterpiece and a wonderful book. But for this reason it deserves a much larger format than the actual 7.8 x 5.1 inches. So 5 stars to the content but 1 star to the size.

Great book. I just thought it should be bigger.

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