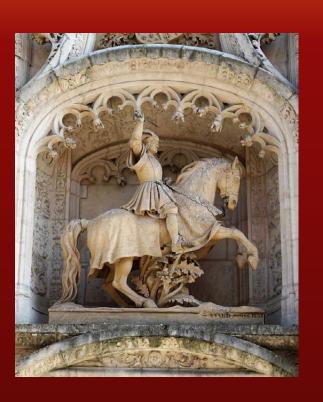
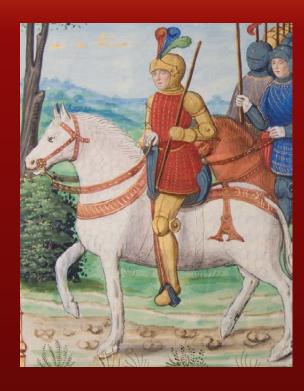
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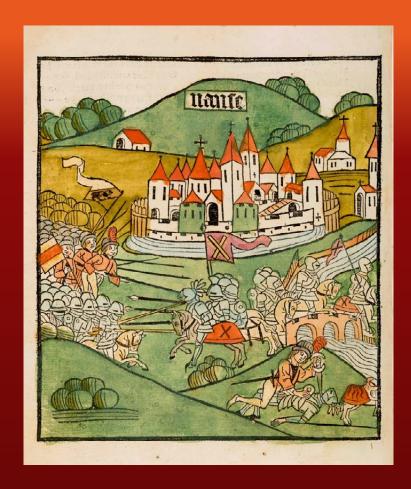
on

Fine Manuscripts
for the
House
of
Lorraine



DR. JÖRN GÜNTHER · RARE BOOKS AG Manuskripte und seltene Bücher info@guenther-rarebooks.com www.guenther-rarebooks.com

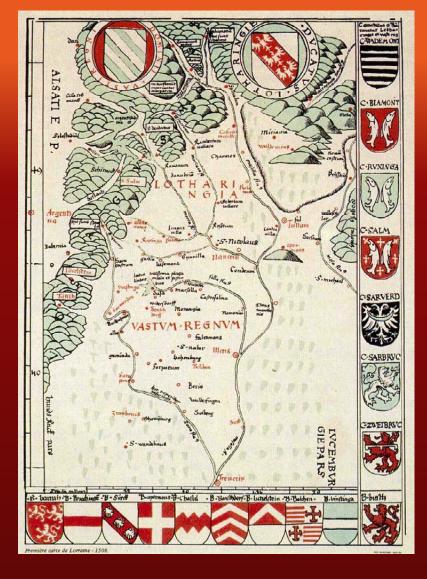




Nancy, the capital of Lorraine, may be best known today for the famous Place Stanislas (Unesco World Heritage), but an earlier claim to fame was the fact that in front of its walls (and actual tower), the armies of Lorraine and the Swiss Confederation defeated Charles the Bold,

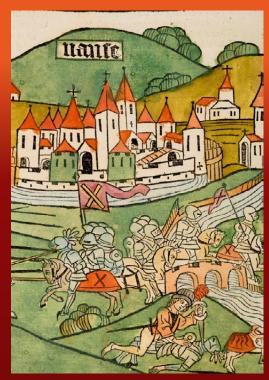
Duke of Burgundy (1477).

(Image: Conrad Pettisheim, *Geschichte Peter Hagenbachs*, Strasbourg1477 - also available at Dr. Jörn Günther Rare Books)



Upper and Lower Lorraine, part of the Holy Roman Empire, maintained relative autonomy.

First known printed map of Lorraine, Martin Waldseemüller ,c. 1508 (sold)





The direct consequence of the Battle of Nancy was that several Burgundian lands became part of France, while the Burgundian Netherlands and the Franche-Comté passed to the House of Habsburg, when the Burgundian heiress Mary married Maximilian of Austria (1477).



René II of Lorraine, in: Pierre de Blarru, *Nancéide*, Musée Lorraine

For Lorraine, the hero of the battle was René II (1451-1508), Duke of Lorraine since 1473.

He grew up at the court of his grandfather René I d'Anjou and married Phillippa of Guelders (1467-1547).

Throughout their lives, both René and Philippa were surrounded by some of the finest manuscripts made in Europe.



The Duke's coat of arms in our Plutarch manuscript.

Monument de la Renaissance



PALAIS DUCAL, XVIe siècle

Fortement endommagé lors de la guerre contre Charles le Téméraire, duc de Bourgogne, en 1477, l'ancien palais médiéval est reconstruit sous le règne du duc de Lorraine René II (1470-1508). A sa mort, c'est son fils Antoine (1508-1544) qui se charge de poursuivre les travaux et de moderniser le palais des Ducs de Lorraine. Durant son règne, il fait refaire la façade, décorer la galerie des Cerfs et embellir en 1511-1512 la porterie du Palais ducal, oeuvre de Mansuy Gauvain. Fortement inspirée de celle du château de Blois, la porterie abrite une statue équestre du duc Antoine. Détruite à la Révolution, l'originale a été reconstituée par Giorné Viard en 1851

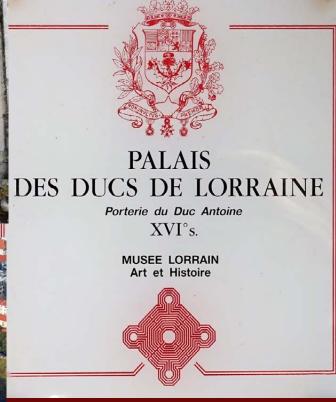
Après le règne de Charles III (1545-1608), le Palais ducal est très vite abandonné.

Sous le règne du duc Léopold (1690-1729), une grande partie des bâtiments du Palais sont démolis pour faire place au « petit Louvre » dû à l'architecte Germain Boffrand, puis au palais du Gouvernement, construit par Emmanuel Héré sous le règne de Stanislas.

En 1848, le Musée Lorrain s'installe dans ses murs.







In Nancy, the ducal palace was severely damaged during the siege of 1477. Whether manuscripts were destroyed, history has not revealed. Today the palace houses the Musée de Lorraine, currently under restoration.







Important in many aspects, the ducal palace deserves a face-lift. The above pedestal with the small 'pensive' skeleton once marked the grave of Duchess Philippa and is one of several excellent sculptures in the museum's collection.

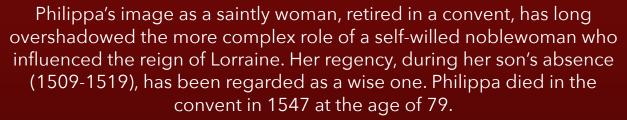
One of the highlights there is the tomb of Philippa of Guelders, made by Ligier Richier, 1548. Philippa gave the Duke 12 children, only 5 of which reached adulthood. Antoine 'the Good' (1489-1544) succeeded his father as Duke in 1508 and reigned until 1544.

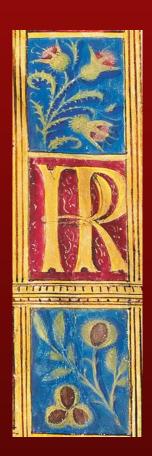
The Duchess played an important role in the education of her children, in politics, in the governance of Lorraine, and in art commissions in and around Nancy. She retired to the Convent of Poor Clares in Pont-à-Mousson where part of her legacy was preserved until the French Revolution.













The duke and duchess commemorated their family in two volumes of *La grande vie du Christ* made in Paris, c. 1506. The first volume is preserved in Lyon. It shows the coats of arms of René and Philippa and portrays the family in prayer (BM, ms. 5125). Philippa took these books with her when she retired.

The two volumes were separated in or shortly after the French Revolution.

The second volume passed through the hands of at least seven known owners before the manuscript arrived in Basel at Dr. Jörn Günther Rare Books.

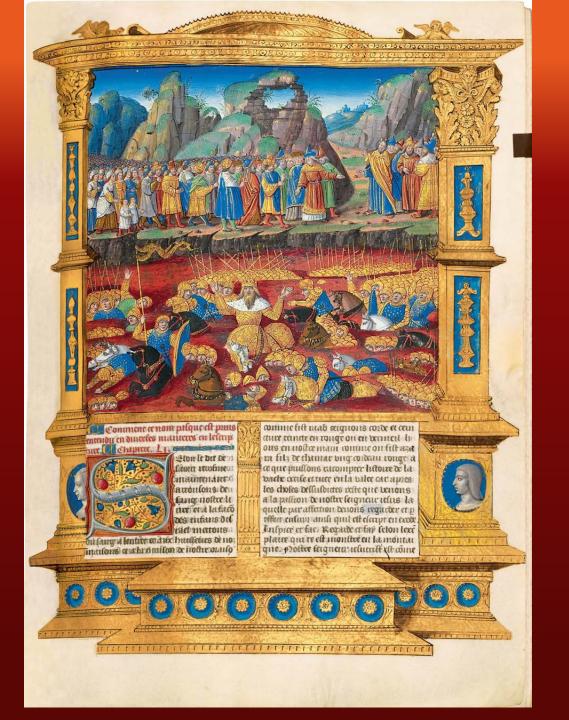


The Günther volume has 83 miniatures in excellent condition.
The borders of the two frontispieces bear the initials *P* and *R* (Philippa and René).

The arms of René II (d. 1508) show the red bars of Hungary, the shield with fleur-de-lis and a label for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the golden cross for Jerusalem, the red pals of Aragon, the two fish for the Duchy of Bar, the fleur-de-lis and red bordure of Anjou, and above all, the historical arms of Lorraine. The columns are adorned with flowering, needle studded thistles.







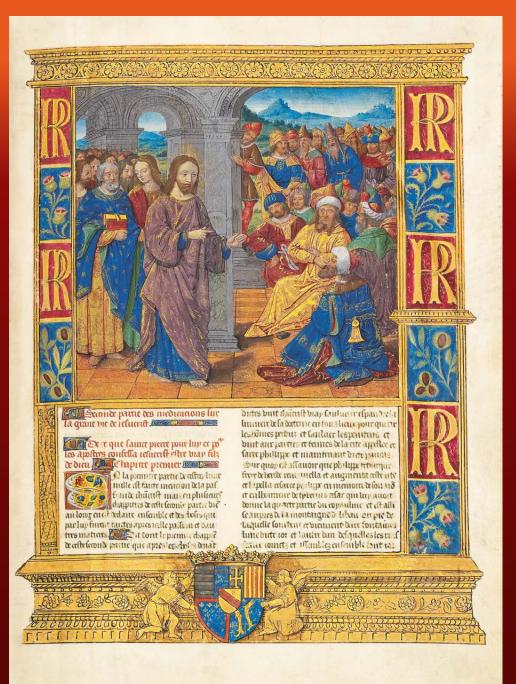
La grande vie du Christ contains two sections of text, each headed by a fullpage frontispiece.

The second full-page miniature shows Moses and the people of Israel in safety, while the army of the Pharaoh is drowning in the Red Sea. The borders of the architectural design include the portraits of the Duchess and Duke.

The manuscript ends with a poem dedicated to Philippa of Guelders, Duchess of Lorraine.

355 x 250 mm. 333+1 leaves 2 full-page miniatures, 81 column-wide miniatures (115-150 x 80 mm) by the Master of the *Chronique scandaleuse*, introducing each chapter.

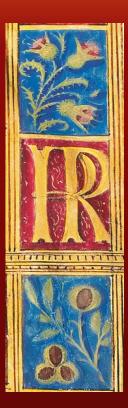
In very fine condition with wide clean margins. Miniatures in fresh condition, with bright colours.





Nancy, as the capital of Lorraine, adopted a thistle in its arms, probably after the defeat of the Duke of Burgundy in 1477. It has been the symbol of the city since the late 15th century.

The origin of Nancy's thistle is to be found in the emblems of King René d'Anjou, grandfather of Duke René.



First frontispiece: Christ in the midst of the Apostles preaching to the teachers of the Law.



This manuscript was likely commissioned and completed in Paris about 1506 in the workshops of two of the best book painters of the time. The poem at the end clearly mentions that Philippa ordered the book.



Cecrie dis pour tant quen ceste page St est subscript le nom et le ligitage De la dance tresmoble et renommée Qui ce liure tant sumptueur à large Estat escripte en quop se mostre sacre Cest philipe de gueldres surnommée The painting of human figures in motion - especially in the frontispieces with large figures - is of high quality, with expressive gestures and detailed facial features. The undulating drapery combined with lavish decoration in liquid gold heightens the effect.

pour for reporter mais on nefat letantolt apres es quarante cours feate ingement combien que on cort q la refinitation gene cale fera le tour dela refunccion de ibilerit. Et pourtant auleunement selon samt ilr mime leighte et tous les arthens ballopet toute la nupe de palques comme attendant labanue du nige mais cetous points eft in conquent en qued an frea ce tour te la miure thon Wi Come bit eft alalette de la refur rection generale et du ungement general le prult moralement applique ala mort de bng chaam ou eft le ingement partieiller Octous laquelle mort di martaine fino par rendation onne. Dourtant forons diligens et ballons cartel, que partirons de afte bie teleferons pielente; au uige

mait. Danion. blement brensa mor enta nua dependence et connecte: mon quatr en plure de larmes gette tors de moples bras dyabiliques par fa pullaner et regne en morta magelle. O noftre vede priori douler far que cete regante des reule unte nozes en dleuant ator le chief te ma penter. Donne morfantirleboule figurer de dernte et de tous les nobles arbies de batus fructifier affinone legianeur effe du ropaulme desa culr (amiode de mon. Darratonte artone morfuntout palic et lansæller belleren warfon pour dexuertes mantriourbles qui font along affin que se pulle apparouter farment trumt for mannent. Amar. 19 10 lobation que le jugament elt mar tam par exemple to behr or to enoch, et to co que bug fera fante et lautre bampine. Clampiter rlb.

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mane apres laten hon de fon treflacte fit; demoura en la montargne de fontout lecemps quelle

befout au monde. En laquelle montaigne est bue chambiete en laquelle demoura bac quant en oration et deuocion. Et en renol uaux en son cueur tout et quelle auoit beu

croup dur de fon coute fels. I lea encore en la dicte montaique bne autre chabie en laquelle comourout faund telean leua gelifte er fuft la premier eglife du mode en laquelle il celebia la piennere melle benant la vierge marie et tant quelle fult en cemonde tous los iours confinna la melle, par lequel tomps dequel doule" et arteur te amour fon cieur effort vente lamet teroline le fefino gre qui duit aut G. I e wie pue que parfondemet pentes et diligement myardes dequel couleur el tort la gloueule pierre mane remplie a pres que lon fut, fut monte on nel et co ment routes les choles qui anoient elle dies par long ramps dies & lup cant p les anges que par les propieres et par it uelacione dumes tant de la Dumite que de fon bumanute wour acophe. Je wo pne o aicure pitrux que penfes bien à quel amour fon aleur choit naux et & quel delir elle eltoit elebauffee quant elle peloit en for toutes les chofes quelle auout oures benes er conguenes de lon benout fils. Le pente quil nelt aiene ne pentee ne bertu; humaine que fult fouffilant penfer coc continuellemet elle eltoit affligee par andeur de pitte er feruent amour et co ment founcut fon ame effort manfrottee par les ferre, er amonicions des diples oleftes. Et paranentur pour le quant amour quelle auort a fon fil; elle von lut par auleun temps demonier aulien ou il auoit alte enfeuely ox no corons affin q fon ame par les dont et piteux itgande quelle failoit and heux ou fon cutaut auout elle full refectionne damo Le hen on elle temoura apres talcentio decluarit eft fitue entre lemont & cal nang oud fouffult most et pallion et du lien ou il monta ou cel affin que Connent le peuft aller les viliter et eftre confolee et les embraffort et les barfort coc fe elle cult tenu lon fils. Celt celle q lefamer angegabud abulious gar de lans quelq foilleure et laune ichen lenangelifte à ferme miques ace que lo with fel; fut monte on ael. Mon pas

The artist shows a preference for strong colours, especially blue, and for the use of liquid gold in the depiction of drapery and architectural and scenic elements

ord main pour main mais plus au double Me Les lope paperines auojent institue peprie mocree et ceule qui criop ent parleuangile estre iopeule ou piteux sone trefrigoureux et pour bie prafe minur demandent une grand vengence pour sop monstrer terrible et pour se faur casi die car ils ont houte sils ne se dengent grandement et en tant et en si grant dalondance de pedies ine fault doubter que ne sort la die a lantecust qui ia commence a ouurer en se munstres. orans our incident ungrommursal du

monde partamilenoue donne mop ontance en diape fop at tin que ne fore decu par fimulatours fault ne furmonte par les perfecuteurs mais que en la confession de diape decute fore ontant et q par elle la harne des lo mes puelle poèter to peulement et en dure. Donne mop la dertu de pacience et q en mop ne retionde la dertu de diarrite pour la donnem en perfecuait us que en perfecuait us que a la fin en fop de derte et en amo de donte par ta muser coed fore saulue o di



eigneur ihrlumilt faisde mo amebnebille debertus affin que mon entendement a qui ascommile afte bille agomerner ne dit tipe les biens que mas pieltez, cur apres la mort re ne leaurap labourer mentor munt. ffapmopremilion te cent me fures behupile que iete doibs par contem placeon et de cent lectiers de froment que icte doils par operation et les poururson font tes amps farmes intercelleursen uers top et aduocat; affin que apresma mort quand amar deffault de mespropres mentes par leur moren et luffrages lore mestalarnades. Amen Kolou manuais uche. rbj. danne. (Esphantiens auananur founant which thowater du contempnement du ma de et des richelles et de fant Caulmoine le mocquorent deluy come fil partalt contre la lor et commandalt aulance dole defrationnable contre la bottome des peres et des propietes lesquels

Et pour æ que beult fum alt opprobre general estudie lor de admender la bie tant quil a espace et de faur penitence affin quil trouve dieu proprie et fort laulue au uigement par la pitie et demenæ infine de dien. Diailon. eigneurihüarlt donne mop parta price grace de beller et moy preparer et fon ad nament exemiour et que par delices et ophinates cellup ione ne lope prins au desponenten maissope par grace du no bie de tes elleus et que puille auccles nobles aigles hault volans qui alare furmition feront renounelles que fot toustes famet; amps paruemir infos a ton digne et gloneux corps la ou ils font pour estre umplis et rellastes de tabenoille fruction et te louce lans fin Amen. Du prede farmile que beille pour bren garder la mailon contre les lar rons The Champter ribi.

In the illustrations of the many parables, the illuminator usually includes architectural elements, as here, a palatially-styled tower. Portraying many interior scenes as uninterrupted views into landscapes, he demonstrates his mastery in both 'genres'.









With hard work on Earth (Matthew 20: the first will be the last) and hard work in Hell - Heaven seems the more peaceful place - and there are always clerics and books that tell us to beware!



650

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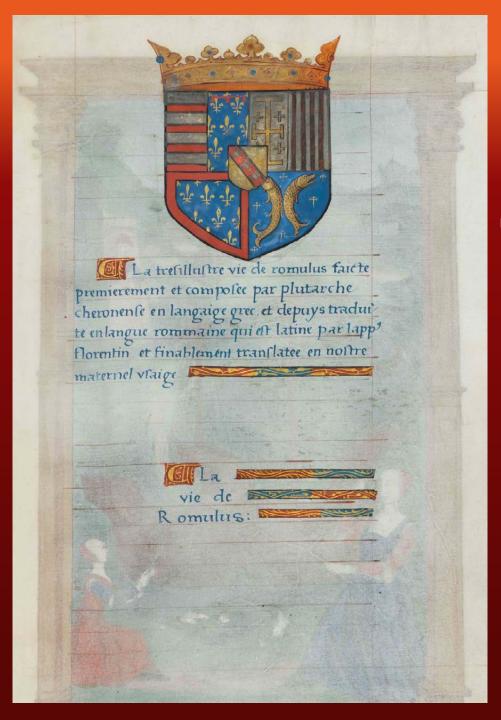


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In shimmering silhouettes and dramatic celestial apparitions, the lighting of the sky is arranged in accordance with the dramatic action.

This artist excelled in a precise and meticulous painting technique. He also worked quickly, often resulting in a bad state of preservation of many of his works today. Yet, the volume at hand is preserved in almost untouched condition, conveying an unblemished, fresh, and immediate impression of the artist's mastery.



Whereas La grande vie du Christ is a monument to her family, which the Duchess took with her when she retired, she likely ordered a series of other manuscripts with an educational purpose.

Plutarch's Vies de Romulus et de Caton d'Utique (Lives of Romulus and Cato the Younger), in the French translation of Simon Bourgoyn, opens with the ducal coat of arms.





This lavish manuscript was likely commissioned for the education of the ducal couple's oldest son and heir, Antoine of Lorraine (1489-1544), as part of a grand collection of instructive literature.

The Greek historian Plutarch (c. 46-120 AD) is best known for his series of *Parallel Lives of Greeks* and *Romans*, biographies of famous Greeks and Romans, arranged in pairs to highlight moral virtues and vices.

Manuscript on vellum, 350 x 220 mm, 218 leaves with 54 full-page miniatures, illuminated by the Master of Philippa of Guelders, Jean Coene IV, and a third talented artist from the Pichore circle. France, Paris, c. 1508.



The texts emphasize the influence of good or bad character on the destinies of men. This focus also ensured its appeal.

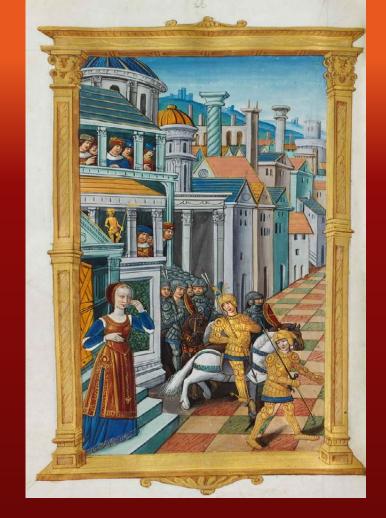
Plutarch's biographies were widely read, influential, classical texts. They remained popular throughout the ages.

Commissioned by the Duchess of Lorraine for the heir of the duchy but undoubtedly also offering educational examples to others at the court, the famous biographies were intended to teach moral behaviour.



Pompey the Great in his garden, counting coins out of a gold-embroidered pouch into the hands of men being bribed (f. 146v).

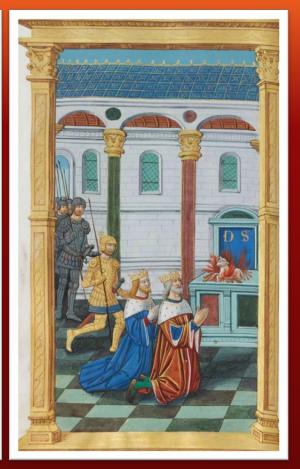




The lives of Romulus (ff. 1r-89r) and Cato the Younger (ff. 91r-218v) had much to teach a young prince at court. Romulus was exemplary for his inspired administrative, military, and political leadership of early Rome. Cato was famous for his stubbornness and tenacity in the long wars against Julius Caesar and for his immunity against bribery and corruption.







Many educators have faced the difficulty of conveying knowledge while keeping their students interested. This lavishly illustrated manuscript with examples from Roman history shows how a combination of texts and images could make teaching and learning attractive.



Plutarch's classical texts were richly illuminated by a group of Parisian illuminators who were part of the circle around the eminent all-rounder Jean Pichore: an illuminator as well as a publisher and illustrator of printed books.

It is possible that the three distinct artists were working in the same workshop, but they may also have collaborated temporarily to accomplish the enormous task at hand in a reasonable time frame. The present manuscript was long lost from public view and has only turned up recently, complete and in mint condition.



The codex contains 54 monumental miniatures in breath-taking colours, each as large as a panel painting.

The subjects are entirely secular and present a wealth of images of late medieval daily life, scenes of warfare and military equipment, contemporary technology (including machines used for building), architecture, and garden design. They also show political assassinations and state funerals.



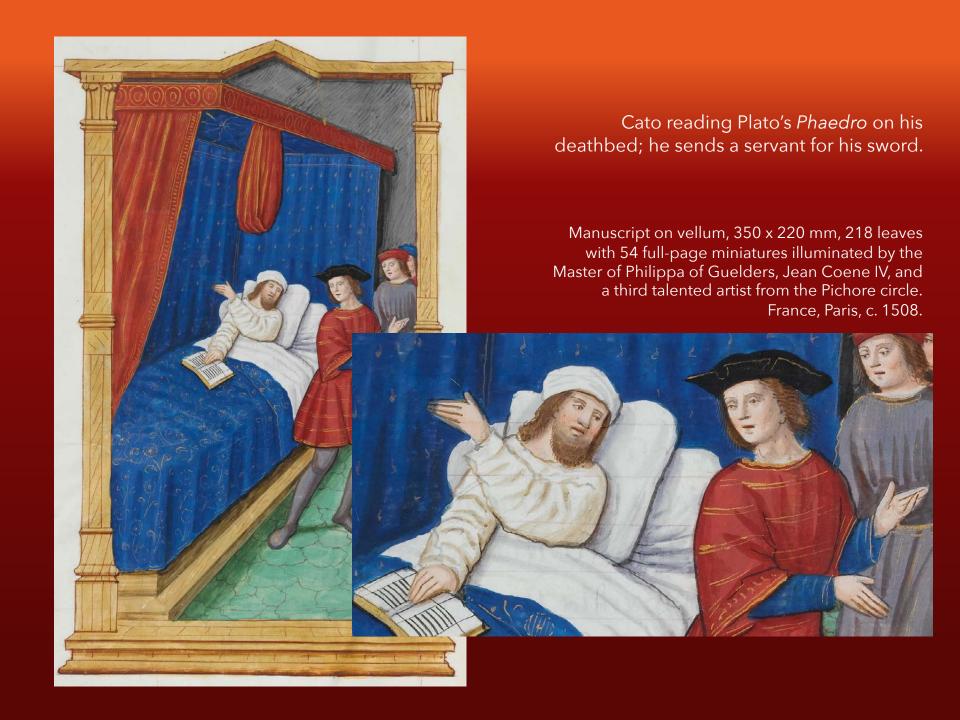
res que caton ent dit et remon Are toutes les choles fuldic les plusieurs par son oraison estoiet aincus et gaignes a son oppi mon et regardant et considerant la magnanimitt et humanite dan telhomme ainsi que sils cullent du tout oublie les emmens peuls et dan orers ils fe officient que caton vialt et fe ay dailt totallement a son platfir et volunte de leurs corps de leurs armes et de leurs biens. comme celluy qui feul entre tous les autres Most vng duc et capitainemainlible et vicleur de chasame fortune Eulx tous disans que ce leur estoit leaucoup le meilleur de mourir en querre en le fuyuant que fils le laufoient et aba donnoient pour prendre falut. Orsily eut quelcun de la compaignie qui oppina quon debuoit donner li late et franchile a tone les forts la melle fon notent n

nable ne toutelloi

lante de fernitud Plutarch, Caesar leading his troops - f. 200v Master of Philippa of Guelders, Jean Coene IV et al. France, Paris, c. 1508.

The original set of educational texts consisted of four manuscripts with a similar coat of arms. The books were given away much later. Two are now preserved at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna.

Our marvelous manuscript is a part of this important cultural heritage.





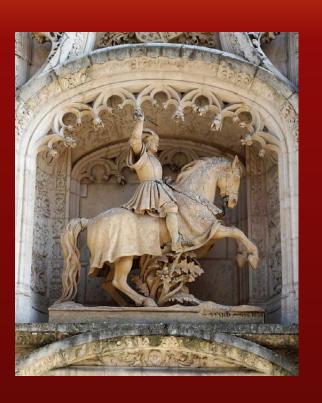
The bed of Duke Antoine 'the Good' is preserved in the Musée de Lorraine.

Did Antoine perhaps pick the Plutarch manuscript for his night-time reading?

Be that as it may, Dr. Jörn Günther Rare Books has two unique manuscripts on offer.

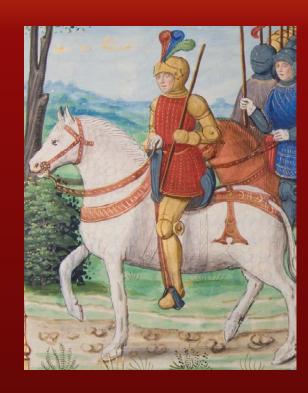
Antoine at the age of 54, painted by the Basel painter Hans Holbein the Younger in 1543 (now: Berlin, Gemäldegalerie)

Spotlight



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