Archives and Special Collections

Hunterian Psalter detail from f92v.

This elaborately illuminated 12th-century English psalters, is among the most splendid surviving examples of Romanesque art.

Regarded as the greatest treasure of Dr William Hunter's magnificent eighteenth century library.

Ref: MS Hunter 229 (U.3.2)

Hunter’s Tercentenary
#Hunter300

2018 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Dr William Hunter (1718-1783) who studied at the University of Glasgow before moving to London in 1750.

The Hunterian Library is one of Archives and Special Collection’s best known and most treasured collections, comprising some 10,000 printed books and over 600 manuscripts.

For colour our collections we have selected examples from his library and included maps showing the location of the Hunterian museums in Glasgow at different periods taken from our Maps, Official Publications & Statistics Unit collections.

#ColorOurCollections

Share your colouring with us:
@UofGlasgowASC
#ColorOurCollections | #Hunter300
www.gla.ac.uk/ASC
Fasciculus Medicinae
Wound Man, 1500

One of the most popular of fifteenth century compendiums on medicine and highly regarded as a useful handbook by practising physicians.

These woodcuts form the first series of didactic medical illustrations in print.

Ref: Ds.2.2, b5v
Archives and Special Collections


Written in Caroline minuscule and decorated with coloured ornamental initials in red, green, and violet, this manuscript is a fine example of the controlled draughtsmanship of Romanesque art. The initial 'A' depicts a lion and dragon in a deadly embrace.

Ref: MS Hunter 438 (V.5.8)
Blockbook Apocalypse. c.1420s-1460s

This xylographic block-book, made up of coloured woodcut pictures represents scenes from the life of St John and the Apocalypse. Here, a seven headed dragon stands before a woman wearing a crown of twelve stars, clothed with sun and moon at her feet, ready to devour her child who is safely caught by God.

Annotations by William Hunter discuss his theory that blockbooks may have their origin in the stamping of wood-engraved cards.

Ref: Ds.2.3, detail from plate 18
Archives and Special Collections

Hunterian Psalter depicting the Ascension.

This elaborately illuminated 12th-century English psalters, is among the most splendid surviving examples of Romanesque art.

Regarded as the greatest treasure of Dr William Hunter's magnificent eighteenth century library.

Ref: MS Hunter 229 (U.3.2), f14r
Archives and Special Collections


The manuscript was purchased by William Hunter on 14 January 1765

Ref: MS Hunter 4 (S.1.4), f2r
Arguably the most beautiful book of the Venetian Renaissance, it tells the story of a quest for lost love.

Published in 1499 by the renowned printer Aldus Manutius the tongue twisting ‘Hypnerotomachia’ poetically translates as the ‘strife of love in a dream’.

The work is further lauded for the originality of its design, in the opening shown here, for example, the pages are shaped in the form of goblets.

Ref: Bh.2.14
Archives and Special Collections

Tuabulae Anatomicae sex
Andreas Vesalius, 1538

This text was based on Vesalius's first dissection at Padua as a professional anatomist.

As a man-midwife and anatomist William Hunter was a keen collector of early medical texts and this work had set a new standard in anatomical illustration, something Hunter would consider when preparing his major work the Anatomy of the Human Gravid Uterus.

Ref: Az.1.10, plate 4

#ColorOurCollections

Share your colouring with us:
@UofGlasgowASC
#ColorOurCollections | #Hunter300
www.gla.ac.uk/ASC
Maps, Official Publications & Statistics Unit

Map showing the Hunterian Museum in the Gilmorehill Building 1913. Taken from Ordnance Survey of Lanarkshire, 2nd edition. Southampton, 1908-1911.

Ref: Case Maps C18:27 1
Map Collection

Map showing the Hunterian Museum on the High Street 1822.

Taken from map of the city of Glasgow and suburbs. Glasgow: Alexander Findlay and William Turnbull, 1822.

Ref: Case Maps C18:45 GLA18