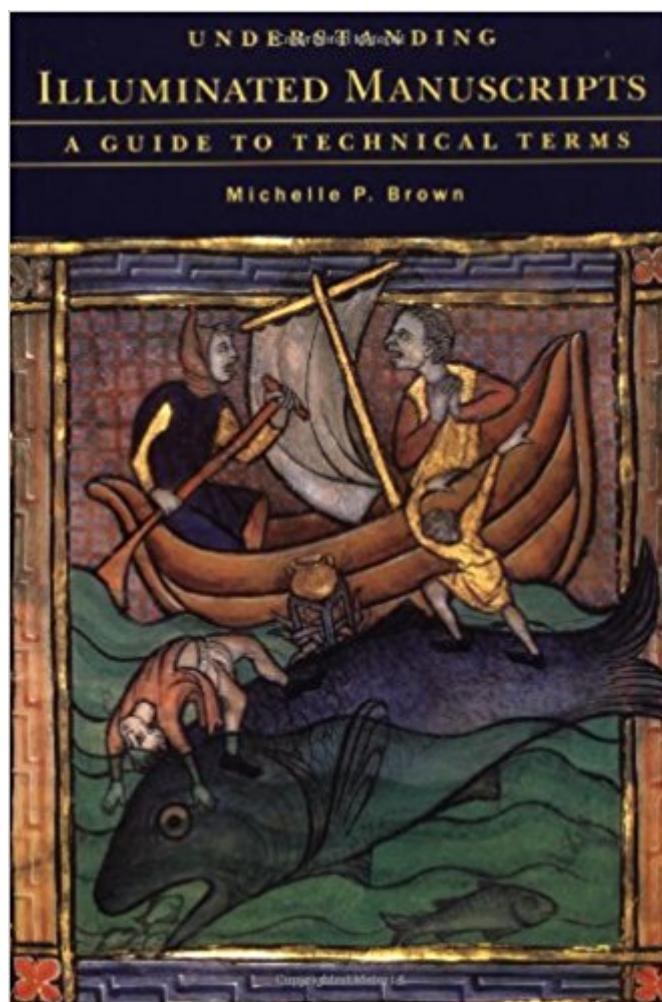The book was found

Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide To Technical Terms (Looking At)

Synopsis

What is a florilegium? What is an incipit? What is batarde script? This book--part of the Museum's popular Looking at series--offers definitions of these and numerous other techniques, processes, and materials used in medieval illuminated manuscripts. Concise and readable explanations of the technical terms most frequently encountered by the museum-goer are presented in an easily portable format. With numerous illustrations, many of them in color, this volume will be invaluable to all readers wishing to increase their understanding and enjoyment of illuminated manuscripts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like another reviewer, this book was not entirely what I expected, since I glossed over the part which said that it was "A Guide to Gechnical Terms" suggesting a dictionary. The book is arranged entirely on an alphabetical listing of terms relating to pre-Guttenberg illustrated books. What was surprising, and possibly a bit "putting offish", is that the entries cover a wide range of material, roughly divided into the areas of 1) Bookbinding techniques, 2) Symbols painted on the pages and 3) Historical information about major Illuminated manuscripts.It is this variety which makes the book suitable for reading cover to cover. You never know what you don't know, or what may be relevant. I'm sure there are books which cover these three subjects individually. I was expecting that the book would cover the symbology and heraldry of the illustrations, but I welcome the others.If you have NO books on illuminated manuscripts, then I suggest this one. If you have lots already, this one may

be too shallow. It is certainly a good "first book" on the subject.

Brown's Guide to Technical Terms is a fascinating journey (alphabetically arranged) of terms specific to illuminated manuscripts mostly from Antiquity in the West to the invention and popularization of printing in the 15th century. To the layman many of the terms describe arcane realities often of the type "Oh, I've see that before, but never knew its name or its purpose." Other terms are probably familiar only to the community already familiar with illuminated manuscripts, but can serve as a quick reminder of important, if highly specific terminology. As a layman with more than I passing interest in illuminated manuscripts, I have found it to be exceptionally informative and easy to use.Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At)

127 pages, 60 color illustrations.This is one of the most beautiful books about illuminated manuscripts I know. The layout of the entries, the explanatory notes, and the many (mostly) color illustrations make this book a very handy and synoptic handbook.Because the editor planned an edition of rather moderate dimensions, some sacrifices had to be made. The rather important production of illuminated manuscripts by the Islamic world and far east countries like China and Japan are not included. I even wonder if they should have been included because the technical terms are more than sufficiently illustrated by the West-European examples. After all this is not an art history-book with an exhaustive intellectual content.Everyone with an interest in the Middle-Ages of western Europe should have this book in his library. A lot of technical terms provide also some insight in medieval society. I would like to give an example. An excerpt from the notes for the entry 'Breviary': "...From the eleventh century on, the various volumes used during the Divine Office (psalter, antiphonal, lectionary, martyrology, and others) were combined to form the breviary which was initially only used by monks but was popularized - in a slightly abridged form - by the Dominicans and Franciscans in the 13th century...."It's beautiful, it's interesting. What more can I say?

While I realize that the book is a guide to technical terms, you need to know what they are on a manuscript first before you can look it up! Think of it like a dictionary for manuscripts, if you're looking at a manuscript described as an octavo, you can look it up and find the definition in this book. On the other hand, if you're looking at a manuscript and have no idea what an element on the page is called, you're out of luck.I was hoping the book would be a breakdown of manuscripts by their parts in a more educational formats, but alas, that is not the case. This book is for you if you

have the technical terms presented to you and you are needing the definition.That said, it's got great information and wonderful illumination examples inside. I'll be keeping the book anyway.

Very informative and my copy, though used, is like new! I'm very pleased with this purchase!

This little volume provides brief definitions of all the important phrases and terms used in the study of illuminated manuscripts including forms, techniques, themes, and periods.Great for understanding the differences between an historiated initial and an inhabited initial - or between an antiphonal and a gradual.Most of the representative images are in color and are well chosen to illustrate the definitions. Perhaps their only drawback is their small size due to the size limitations of the book itself.A great companion while reading to "Medieval Illuminators & their Methods of Work" by Jonathan J.G. ALexander or "A History of Illuminated Manuscripts" by Christopher De Hamel.

I really learned a lot from this book, and everything I learned influences how I read OTHER books on the subject. It was definitely money well spent.

A very helpful volume for anyone interested in illuminated manuscript art and lettering. Many other books use these terms but don't define them. This is a must have for those who love to read about medieval manuscript books.

Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At) Romanesque Manuscripts: The Twelfth Century (A SURVEY OF MANUSCRIPTS ILLUMINATED IN FRANCE) Looking at Paintings: A Guide to Technical Terms, Revised Edition Looking at Photographs: A Guide to Technical Terms, Revised Edition Understanding Greek Vases: A Guide to Terms, Styles, and Techniques (Looking at Series) Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts A History of Illuminated Manuscripts Illuminated Manuscripts: Treasures of the Pierpont Morgan Library New York (Tiny Folio) Masterpieces of the J. Paul Getty Museum: Illuminated Manuscripts The Art of the Bible: Illuminated Manuscripts from the Medieval World Illuminated Manuscripts of Germany and Central Europe in the J. Paul Getty Museum The Grand Medieval Bestiary: Animals in Illuminated Manuscripts Royal Illuminated Manuscripts: From King Athelstan to Henry VIII Illuminated Prophet Books: A Study of Byzantine Manuscripts of the Major and Minor Prophets Medieval Russian Ornament in Full Color: From Illuminated Manuscripts (Dover Pictorial Archive) Russian Illuminated Manuscripts Looking at Greek and Roman Sculpture in Stone: A Guide

to Terms, Styles, and Techniques Looking at Glass: A Guide to Terms, Styles, and Techniques Trinidad: Looking Back From My Front Porch: And a Guide to Nautical Terms A Quick Read on What You Should Know about Colon Cancer and how to Prevent it: Detailed, but in laymans's terms (What you should know about your health ... care of yourself; in layman's terms Book 1)