Roman de la Rose...Li romans de la Rose... et Li testament maistre Jehan demeun... et Codicile.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in France (Paris) in the second half of the XIV cent. The Text is perfect (with XV century additions) and rubricated throughout. The text of the Testament and Codicile were added late in the 15th century.

Decoration: 2 half-page miniatures on ff. 1 and 150 (4 x 6 in.) and 31 smaller ones (generally 2 7/16 x 2 1/4 in.) illustrating the text, (for description see Illustrations below). There are 2 full-page floreates and historiated borders on ff. 1 and 150, and innumerable initial letters in gold on a blue or pink ground throughout.

The illumination is generally good. The Manuscript may have been executed for Charles V or a member of his Court (see fleur-de-lys in background of small miniatures) and greatly resembles the Morgan Ms. no 324 of the Roman de la Rose.

180 leaves (10 3/4 x 7 1/4 in.); 2 columns of 36 lines each to a page; in a black-brown ink. Folios 49, 106 to 113, 130 to 137 and the Codicile, 144v-150 are in a XV century hand. Small folio (11 x 7 3/4 in.)

The leaves containing the Romance of the Rose (ff. 1-14v) are numbered in the centre of the upper margin in a XIV century hand.


Bindings: full orange levant morocco, inlaid in green, red and black mosaic to an Italian design, with red levant doublures semis with fleur-de-lys in gold, and with elaborate gilt gauffered edges by Lortio of Paris (XIX cent.) in red mor. box-case with 2 clasps.

History and Notes. Executed for Charles V of France (1337-1380) or a member of his Court (?). (Note Fleur de-lys on ff. 2, 5, 4, 23, 30v, and 142 and tricolour border of pictures)
In a XV century hand on f. 130 "Thomassin"?

Before 1860 - Louis-Jean Monmerque, who has made a note on f. 179v (see Note 1) (Sale Paris, 1851, no 2504)
Before 1877 - Collection of Amboise Firmin-Didot, with his bookplate.
Before 1878 - At Firmin-Didot Sale, cat. 1878, no. 33 - fransos 3800.
Before 1886 - Collection of M. Eugene Pailler, with his autograph on 1st fly-leaf.
Before 1887 - Morgand - Cat. des livres de la Bibliothèque de M. Eugene Pailler, no. 474, fr. 5000.
Before 1888 - Collection of Mr. George Black de Forest, N.Y. (d. 1932)
Before 1904 - Purchased by Mr. Morgan with remainder of De Forest Collection in 1904.

Contents: ff. 1-149v Roman de la Rose
          ff. 150-179 Testament de Jehan de Meung) added XV cent;
          ff. 179v-180 Codicile de Jehan de Meung) on fol 150,
          the portraits of the family

Note 1. - Louise - Jean - Nichols, Monmerque was born at Paris 1780 and died there in 1860. He was a litterateur and magistrat and member of the Academie des Inscriptions. He edited the letters of Mme. de Sevigne and collaborated in many other works. On f. 179v of the present manuscript he has written "Ce qui suit est une partie du Codicile de Jehan de Meung ajoute dans le XVe siecle a la suite du mss. Il y manque les deux dernieres strophes".

Add. Cards

Mss. Illum. France - XIV cent.
Binders - Lortie of Paris - XIXth cent.
Provenance - All cards under History

July 21, 1932
Roman de la Rose

Monmerqué Sale Catalogue, Paris, 1851, No. 2804

A. Firmin-Didot sale catalogue, Paris, 1878, No. 33

A. Fountaine catalogue, 1879, No. 513


Bulletin Morgand, 20, 1887, No. 12199

Grolier Club Exhibition Catalogue, 1892, No. 4

Romania, vol. 34, 1905, p. 89.