
Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in France, toward the end of the XIVth century.

Decoration: There are 32 miniatures of which more than half are battle scenes, illustrating the text. There is much repetition in these scenes which usually consists of two mounted opponents in the foreground, behind whom are massed their troops, of whom only the visored heads are visible. This form of visor was in use in the XIVth century. Where buildings appear in the background they resemble Norman fortresses. (cf. vol. II, ff. 178, 380v, etc.)

The style of painting indicates a provincial atelier, which is borne out by the dialect of the text. Some of the miniatures are unusually large, those on ff. 123v and 233 (7) measuring 8½ x 9½ inches.

There are no rubrics to mark chapter divisions or summaries of contents. Gold sprays of flowers and leaves proceed from many of the illuminated capital letters.

Contents of miniatures:

vol. I. f°
1. The sleeping author is visited by an angel.
2. Joseph of Arimathea takes communion.
5. The knight of the ship (from 1400)
7. Solomon and his wife.
9. Mordain fights the pagans.
11. Attack on city of Vertigern.
12. Death of Pendragon.
15. The marvellous stag appears at the Emperor's table.
16. The savage is brought before the king.
17. Battle scene.
18. 317v-battle scene
19. 321v-
20. 330v-
21. (Arthur kills Rion - 3 gold crowns on Arthur's shield
22. 

SEE NEXT PAGE
The text begins with 'Cil qui se tient et iuge' and ends (vol. 2) 'En la marche de Gales'. Vol. I, ff.1-106 consists of the prose version of the Holy Grail sometimes called 'Joseph d'Arimathie'. It is the version purporting to have been translated from a Latin original of Robert de Borron, who is mentioned on ff.108, vol. I, line 18. The language of the text is much abbreviated when compared with the printed edition of 1516 and in some instances attempts by another hand have been made to correct a confusion in the text.

The dialect is related to that of Picardy in the XIVth century. Commencing with line 22 of f°.106 (Moul ceremonies) we have the text of Merlin, which continues through the second volume also. In general, this text corresponds with the first printed edition of 1498 and is given at length. (cf. also B.M. Add.10292, Cat. Romances I 343, and Harley 6840 Cat. Romanus I, 344). On f°.159 are the initials of the scribe "G.P.".

On f°.116 reference is made to an unidentified author "Mertins de Gloucestre" given as translator of the history of Britain, known as Brutus.

2 vols. (continuously paged), of 357 leaves (17 x 13 inches). 3 columns of 48 lines. 1 f°.

**Binding:** French XVIIIth century red morocco, with Roxburghe arms on both covers, added ca.1800. Lettered "Roman du San Graal - MSS. pre du XVe siecle".


Add cards:


i. MSS.-Illum.-French - XIV cent.
ii. " " Picard - XIV cent.
iii. " " Scribes - G.B.
iv. Provenance - La Valliere, Duc de
v. " " Roxburghe, Duke of
vi. " " Heber, Richard

x-ref. Mertins de Gloucestre SEE Merlin. French. XIV cent. (f.116)
Nançay: boards 1st ship. f. 44
The 2d Knowledge, with Solomon and 1st. f. 47
Solomon and wife, with the 2d Knowledge. f. 47
Nançay: debarks. f. 79
Joseph of Animathia, departs withruby geld. f. 85
Joseph of Animathia: battle against pagans. f. 87
Phip. f. 123
Pendragon: battle. f. 123, 130
Arthur, king of Britain: coronation. f. 145
Windmill. f. 246
Jesus Amiet: as stag. f. 259
Davage. f. 291
Arthur, king of Britain: slays Rien. f. 331

Put a. Michea, of the University of Orléans
ordered photos of M. 207 ff. 106-106, 115
130r. 132. 145v. Cat 23. 953

Alexandru Michea, Deux
études sur le Graal. II. Le
"Vrai du Graal" de Robert
de Boron. Romania,
June LXXV, 1954 p. 316
Morgan MS. No. M.207

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


pp. 59-61