

THREE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS



Bibliotheca Carolina

Some 450 manuscripts selected for this project are masterworks of the main abbeys and cathedral schools of the Carolingian Empire (8th and 9th centuries), including Reichenau, Saint-Denis, Fleury, Metz, Tours, Corbie, Reims, Saint-Amand, Freising and Wissembourg. These manuscripts show the intense intellectual and artistic activity of these centres of religious life, ecclesiastical and imperial power, and their numerous exchanges of texts and decorational patterns.



Library of Charles V and Family

The Library of Charles V and Family reunites more than 160 manuscripts which once belonged to the king's collection, and also includes a number of manuscripts from the libraries of his brothers, Jean, duc de Berry, and Louis d'Orléans, both renowned bibliophiles. It represents one of the most extraordinary collections of illuminated manuscripts of the 14th century and shows the diffusion of the texts which were at the heart of aristocratic culture, through the circulation of copies at the courts of France, England, the southern Low Countries and Burgundy.



Library of the aragonese King of Naples

A true State Library, this stupendous collection of almost 300 manuscripts brings together of masterworks of French, Venetian, Neapolitan, Lombard and Spanish illuminations and numerous Renaissance bindings. It is the symbol, beyond political borders, of the cultural unity of Europe.

CONTEXT



Managed by the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), the Europeana Regia project unites five European libraries – **the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich (BSB)**, **the Universitat de València Biblioteca Històrica (BHUV)**, **the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel (HAB)** and **the Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België – Bibliothèque royale de Belgique (KBR)** – and gathers almost nine hundred manuscripts that are representative of the political, cultural and artistic history of Europe.

The project is funded by the European Commission under the Information and Communication Technology Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP), which aims to stimulate innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

Thanks to the successful collaboration of these five main libraries based in four European countries and the support of the European Commission, *Europeana Regia*, which is a 30 months project (January 2010 – June 2012) has allowed the digitisation of almost 900 rare and precious manuscripts. This makes possible the virtual reconstitution of three main collections that are currently dispersed and which represent European cultural activity during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: **the Bibliotheca Carolina** (8th and 9th centuries), **the Library of Charles V and Family** (14th century) and **the Library of the aragonese Kings of Naples** (15th and 16th centuries).

The manuscripts which are part of this exceptional collection of Europe's cultural heritage are accessible on the websites of the respective partner libraries and are also included in the website europeanaregia.eu and the Europeana digital library Europeana.

If you want to contribute towards *Europeana Regia*, you are more than welcome to contact info@europeanaregia.eu. Among the supporters so far are e-codices, the University Library of Heidelberg, the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg...

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Bibliothèque
nationale de France



europa
Regia

A digital collaborative
library of royal
manuscripts
in Mediaeval and
Renaissance Europe

www.europeanaregia.eu

Contact : info@europeanaregia.eu



ABOUT EUROPEANA REGIA



Europeana Regia aims at reconstructing, in the form of a virtual library, the most important European royal manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

Since 2012, this project has provided a means for researchers and the general public to access these rare and precious documents, through platforms such as *Gallica*, *Belgica*, *Manuscripta Mediaevalia* and *Europeana*.

The project covers a number of activities, such as the definition of best practises and procedures to be followed by the partner libraries, the compilation and the enrichment of metadata (descriptive entries and indexation) and the digitisation process itself of the original manuscripts and the development of a virtual exhibition on the website of The European Library.

KBR, Manuscripts department,

Thomas de Cantimpré, *Bonum universale de apibus*, 1372 (detail).



THE CONSORTIUM



France

Bibliothèque nationale de France

www.bnf.fr

The BnF is the heir of the royal collections which have been assembled since the end of the Middle Ages. The first institution in France to be made responsible for administering legal deposit from 1537 on, it is the largest library in France and one of the major libraries in the world.

Other French libraries also contribute to the project: the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, the Bibliothèque Mazarine (Paris), public libraries of Amiens, Abbeville, Eprenay, Laon, Reims, Valenciennes, Besançon, Angers, Bourges, Grenoble, Rouen, Louviers and the Société des lettres, sciences et Arts de l'Aveyron in Rodez.



Germany

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

www.bsb-muenchen.de

With almost 10 million books, about 50,000 current periodicals in printed or electronic form and more than 35,000 Western and 16,000 Oriental manuscripts, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, founded in 1558, is one of the prime national and international reference points for researchers, students and anyone seeking information.



Herzog August Bibliothek

www.hab.de

More than 300 years ago, the Herzog August Library was already celebrated as the eighth wonder of the world. Today, the Herzog August Library is one of the oldest libraries still intact, preserving the cultural heritage in the research field of European cultural history of the mediaeval and early modern periods.



Belgium

Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België Bibliothèque royale de Belgique

www.kbr.be

Playing the role of the general conservatory of the national heritage, the KBR presently holds some 5 million printed books, 39,000 manuscripts (including circa 270 codices of the library of the Dukes of Burgundy), 200,000 maps, 700,000 prints, 10,000 drawings and 120,000 coins and medals.



Spain

Universitat de València Biblioteca Històrica

<http://biblioteca.uv.es>

Founded in 1785, the Library significantly increased its collections in the 19th century, after the Mendizabal Disentailment Laws, with the arrival of books from the secularised monasteries in the Valencia region. Several of these masterpieces have been selected and digitised within the Europeana Regia project.



BnF, Manuscripts department,
Latin 295, fol. 50 (detail).