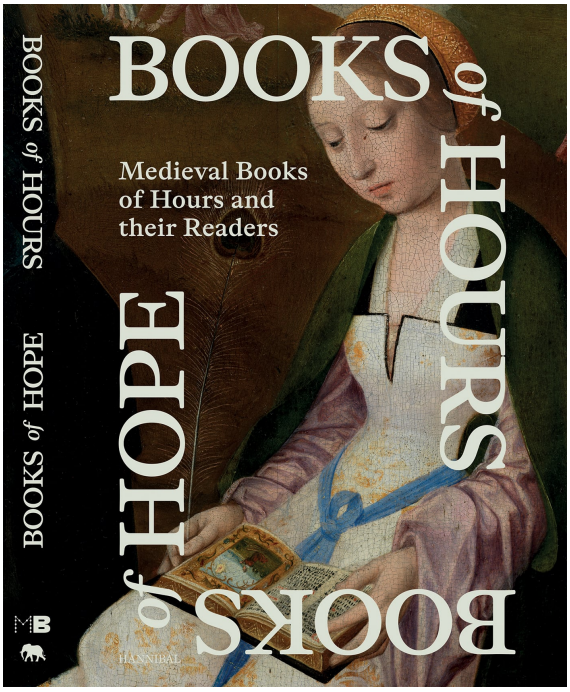
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Books of Hours Books of Hope

Medieval Books of Hours and their Readers

Evelien Hauwaerts

ISBN	9789464941951
Publisher	Hannibal Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	6.69 in x 9.25 in
Pages	160 Pages
Illustrations	60 color, 20 b&w
Price	$55.00

- Examines Books of Hours, the most popular books of the late Middle Ages, which were widely owned across social classes
- Highlights the widespread ownership of these books, from dukes to merchants and servants, in both Latin and vernacular languages, and in varied formats, from simple to luxurious
- Provides a unique sociological analysis of the role and significance of Books of Hours, beyond their decorative aspects
- Investigates intriguing questions, such as the book's name ("Book of Hours"), its readership, and its repeated appearance in Flemish portraits of the time
- Explores the use and meaning of these books in daily life and medieval society, filling gaps in existing literature
- Published to accompany the exhibition *Pride and Solace: medieval Books of Hours and their readers* at the Groeningemuseum in Bruges from 4 April until 7 October 2025

Books of Hours were the bestsellers of the late Middle Ages. ***Books of Hours, Books of Hope*** provides unambiguous and accessible answers to the most intriguing questions about the use and significance of these devotional books: what were they about, who were the makers and readers, where did people learn to read, did they use reading glasses or lamps, what do the humorous figures in the margins symbolize, and why do *Books of Hours* feature so frequently in portraits by, for example, the Flemish Primitives?

From sumptuous masterpieces embellished with gold leaf to modest, well-thumbed copies dotted with candle-wax stains or personal notes – each one has a story to tell. *Books of Hours* were popular among all levels of society, from dukes and countesses to bricklayers and maids. Not only as showpieces, but above all as their owners' faithful companions, cherished and used intensively.

Lavishly illustrated with masterpieces from the collections of the Bruges Public Library and Musea Brugge, this publication is a must-have for those who wish to immerse themselves in the fascinating book culture of the medieval era.

Publication accompanying the exhibition *Pride and Solace: medieval Books of Hours and their readers* at the Groeningemuseum in Bruges from 4 April until 7 October 2025.

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Published 19th Aug 2025