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MEDIA CONTACT
Miranda Sklaroff
Getty Publications
(310) 440-6536
msklaroff@getty.edu

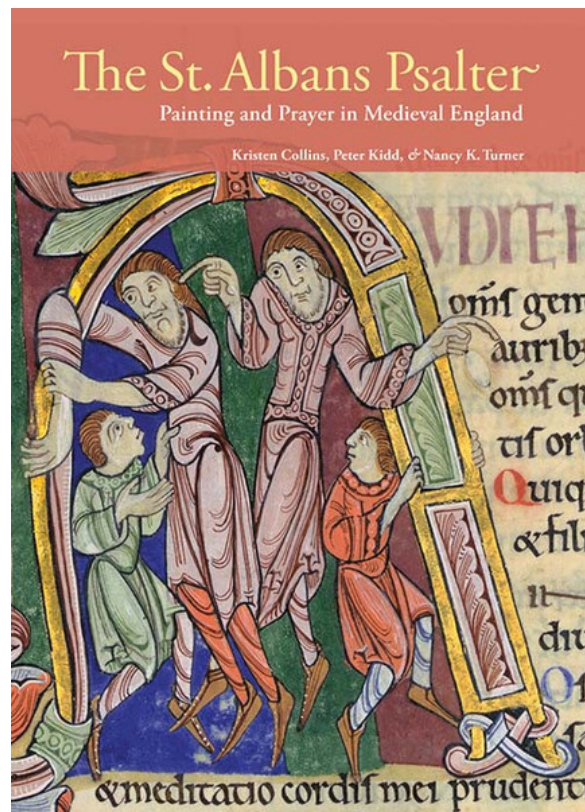
**A NEW VOLUME OPENS A WINDOW INTO A RARE AND RENOWNED
TWELFTH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT**

The St. Albans Psalter: Painting and Prayer in Medieval England

Published by the J. Paul Getty Museum
September 20, 2013

LOS ANGELES—The St. Albans Psalter is one of the most important, famous, and puzzling books produced in twelfth-century England. It was probably created between 1120 and 1140 at St. Albans Abbey, located on the site where Alban, England's first saint, was martyred.

The manuscript's powerfully drawn figures and saturated colors are distinct from those in previous Anglo-Saxon painting and signal the arrival of the Romanesque style of illumination in England. Although most twelfth-century prayer books were not illustrated, the St. Albans Psalter includes more than forty full-page illustrations and over 200 historiated initials. Decorated with gold and precious colors, the psalter offers a display unparalleled by any other English manuscript to survive from the period.



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In 2007 the St. Albans Psalter was removed from its binding and in 2012 the unbound leaves traveled to the J. Paul Getty Museum, where scholars, conservators, and scientists conducted a close examination. New evidence revealed here challenges several prevailing assumptions about this richly illuminated manuscript.

The St. Albans Psalter is published to coincide with the exhibition ***Canterbury and St. Albans: Treasures from the Church and Cloister*** on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum from September 20, 2013 to February 2, 2014.

About the Authors—**Kristen Collins** is associate curator in the Department of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum. **Peter Kidd** is a freelance researcher specializing in medieval manuscripts. **Nancy Turner** is manuscripts conservator in the Department of Paper Conservation at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Publication Information:

The St. Albans Psalter

Painting and Prayer in Medieval England

Kristen Collins, Peter Kidd, and Nancy Turner

J. Paul Getty Museum

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94 color and 2 b/w illustrations

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