null
null
BIBLE
13th Century
Minute Lettering
0068
3. Bible late 13th c. Italy

301 leaves (17.5 × 12.0 cm). Small square Gothic script. 60 lines in 2 columns. Gatherings of 10. Text in Latin. Vulgate edition with St. Jerome's prologue. 5 historiated initials and many decorated initial letters with animal and grotesque designs, placed at the ends of paragraphs. Binding: brown calfskin over wooden boards with clasps, modern. In a folding case. Inset inside front board: panel from an early brown calf binding with stamped decoration. 15th-16th c.

Italian Gothic approaches to page design are readily distinguishable from the French. Where the Parisian Bible seeks an integration of text and decoration (Cat. 21), the Italian master blocks out his initials. Marginal grotesques and foliage meanders along the borders with less regard for balancing the page. Despite their minute size, the initials assert themselves with a sculptural fullness brought forth by modeling in pale tones of color and white highlighting. Hoofed and trumpet-like terminations along with the script and figure style indicate a workshop in northern Italy. The Historiated initials portray the author and his theological concerns. The opening of Genesis: Solomon, Ezekiel, and St. John the Evangelist.

Provenance: Albert Nat. Libr. Seelers, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Bjorkman collection (Ms. 8).
0068 Bible
1280
14 lines / inch
3. Bible late 13th c. Italy


Italian Gothic approaches to page design are readily distinguishable from the French. Where the Parisian Bible seeks an integration of text and decoration (Cat. 2), the Italian master blocks out his initials. Marginal grotesques and foliage meander along the borders with less regard for balancing the page. Despite their minute size, the initials assert themselves with a sculptural fullness brought forth by modeling in pale tones of color and white highlighting. Hooded and trumpet-like terminations of the vine forms are typical of Italian work from this period. Such features along with the script and figure style indicate a workshop in northern Italy. The historiated initials portray the “authors” of each text they precede: St. Jerome, translator of the Vulgate, before his prologue; Christ as Creator at the opening of Genesis; Solomon; Ecclesiastes; and St. John the Evangelist.

Provenance: Albert Natural (ex libris); Scribner’s, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Eberly Thompson collection (Ms. 8).