

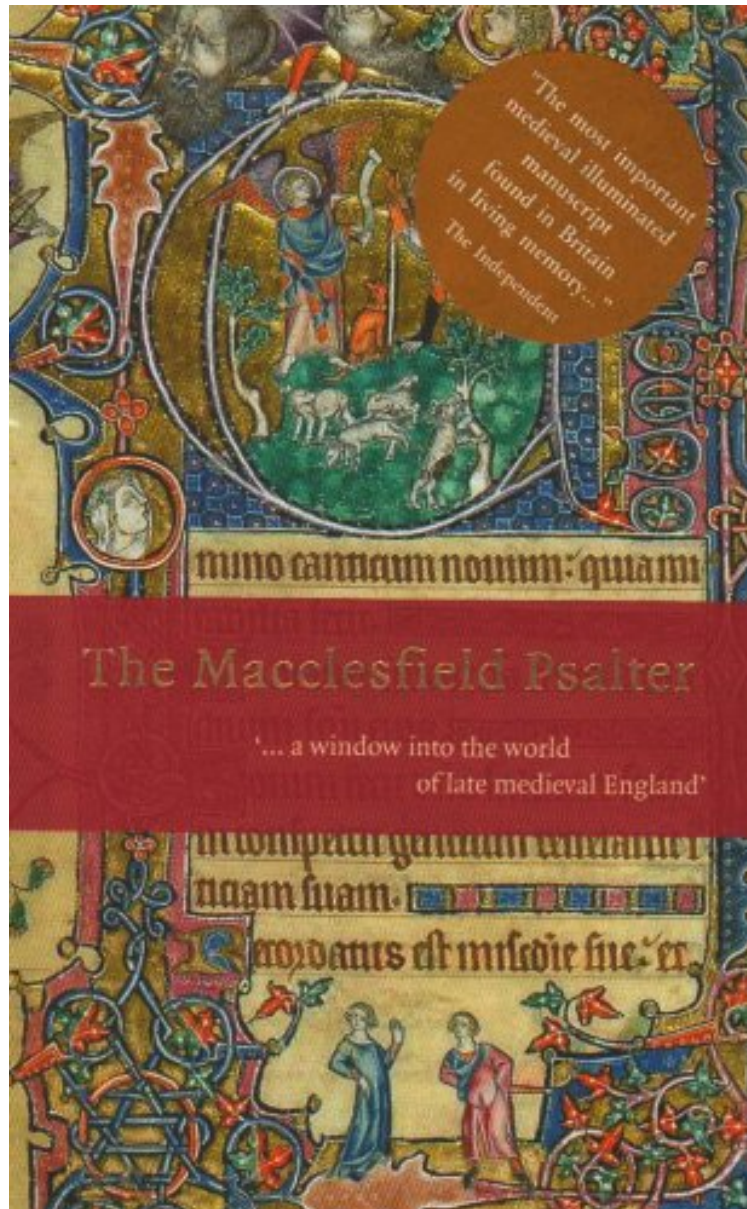
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The Fitzwilliam Museum : The Macclesfield Psalter: .. a Window into the World of Late Medieval England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Macclesfield Psalter: .. a Window into the World of Late Medieval England:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Use care when orderingBy AltheaThere are two editions of this

book. Both are hardcovers, and both are credited to the same author. The full size, 352 page book with the complete text, illustrations, and commentary was published in 2008 by Thames and Hudson. This is the book that is glowingly referred to in all the reviews. The other edition, with an illustration on the cover, was published in 2005 by the Fitzwilliam Museum and is only 6x5 inches with a mere 65 pages. It is a nice little introduction, but is only briefly informative and the limited illustrations are so small a magnifying glass is necessary. The product page for this edition carries the same reviews as for the larger edition, and that is where confusion might arise. So just exercise care when ordering, and make sure you are getting the 2008 Thames and Hudson edition if you are seeking the complete Psalter. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Book description refers to another book By Kindle Customer I suppose

I should have clicked the "show more" button under this portion of the review: "...The Macclesfield Psalter is a revealing product of artistic and patronage exchange in the Middle Ages. A complete reproduction of the manuscript at its original size is accompanied by an authoritative text that not only interprets the textual and artistic content but also beguiles the reader through its vivid descriptions and rich insights. 570 color--This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition. Show more..." If you do, this helpful statement appears: "...--This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition." When you click on THAT link, it takes you to this book: The Macclesfield Psalter AND, when you click on the first set of "used" links (see below)..." Formats Price New from Used from Hardcover -- \$36.59 \$21.00..." It takes you back to this useless edition. This is NOT a facsimile. It is 64 page book that measures about 5x6 inches. There are only a few photos from the original psalter in this version, and they all focus on the grotesques at the bottom of the page. There are almost no initials represented. There is a small amount of commentary. I feel I have no choice but to give this book 1 star, based upon comparing the pathetic reality of this book to the description presented by of the actual facsimile. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Beautiful Little Book. By Ronald E. Parsons I am reviewing the 2005 edition of 64 pgs. and approximating the length and width (but not the thickness) of the original item produced circa 1325 AD. My hard cover volume is Appx. 5" X 6.5". There is a later edition containing 352 pgs. and Appx. 10" X 10", and thicker than mine. I might add that the later edition is much more expensive than mine for which I paid (used) roughly 50 cents plus shipping. For my purposes my little volume is more than adequate. I disagree with another reviewer who believed that the illustrations in this book are too small. I believe that they are quite good and do not require magnification. If you believe that you want to look into the contents of the more expensive and later edition I suggest that you spend the pittance required for the 2005 ed (used). before paying much, much more for the larger and later edition. The subject is esoteric but a delight to one who is interested in Middle Ages illuminated manuscripts. The Macclesfield Psalter is an especially good example of that period's hand produced, highly illuminated (illustrated or decorated) Christian prayer books made for the wealthy. The illumination is magnificent.

The first reproduction of this exquisite illuminated manuscript that brings medieval ways, beliefs, and thought to life. Discoveries of real artistic treasures are exceptionally rare. The Macclesfield Psalter (c. 1335), a jewel of manuscript painting, was virtually unknown before its sale by Sotheby's in 2004. The manuscript offers a window into the medieval world, an intimate view of the faith, sentiments, prejudices, follies, and aspirations of medieval people. Doctors, minstrels, mummers, farmers, dancers, jesters, and beggars mingle on the pages as they would have done on the streets of a busy town. And the marginal imagery tempts the viewer to leave the confines of the prayer book and enter a wonderland of literary conceits, visions, and fables, with naked wild men, a dog dressed as a bishop, or a giant fish swimming across a page. The Macclesfield Psalter is a revealing product of artistic and patronage exchange in the Middle Ages. A complete reproduction of the manuscript at its original size is accompanied by an authoritative text that not only interprets the textual and artistic content but also beguiles the reader through its vivid descriptions and rich insights. 570 color

About the Author Stella Panayotova is Keeper of Manuscripts at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. She is the editor, with Paul Binski, of *The Cambridge Illuminations: Ten Centuries of Book Production in the Medieval West*.