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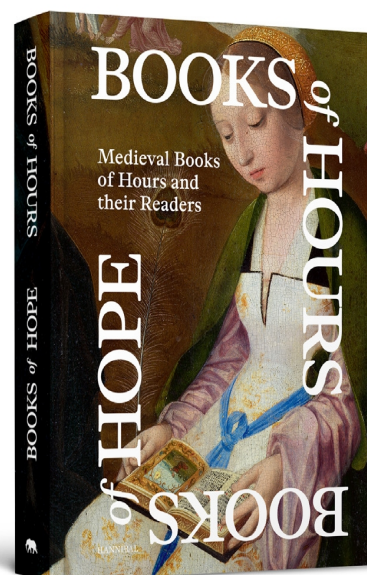
Books of Hours, Books of Hope – Medieval Books of Hours and their Readers

Richly illustrated publication on Books of Hours in late medieval society
and their frequent depiction in Flemish portraits

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 symbolise, 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 mediev...



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