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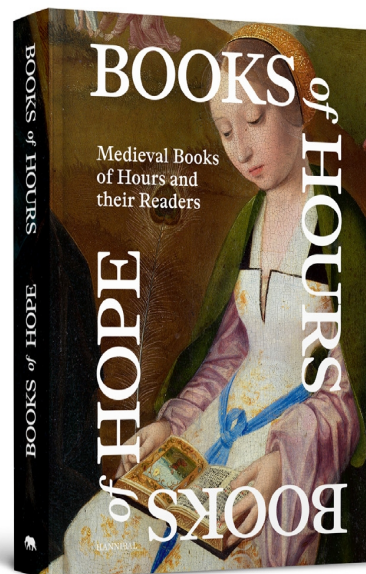
Books of Hours, Books of Hope – Medieval Books of Hours and their Readers

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-
 thumbbed 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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