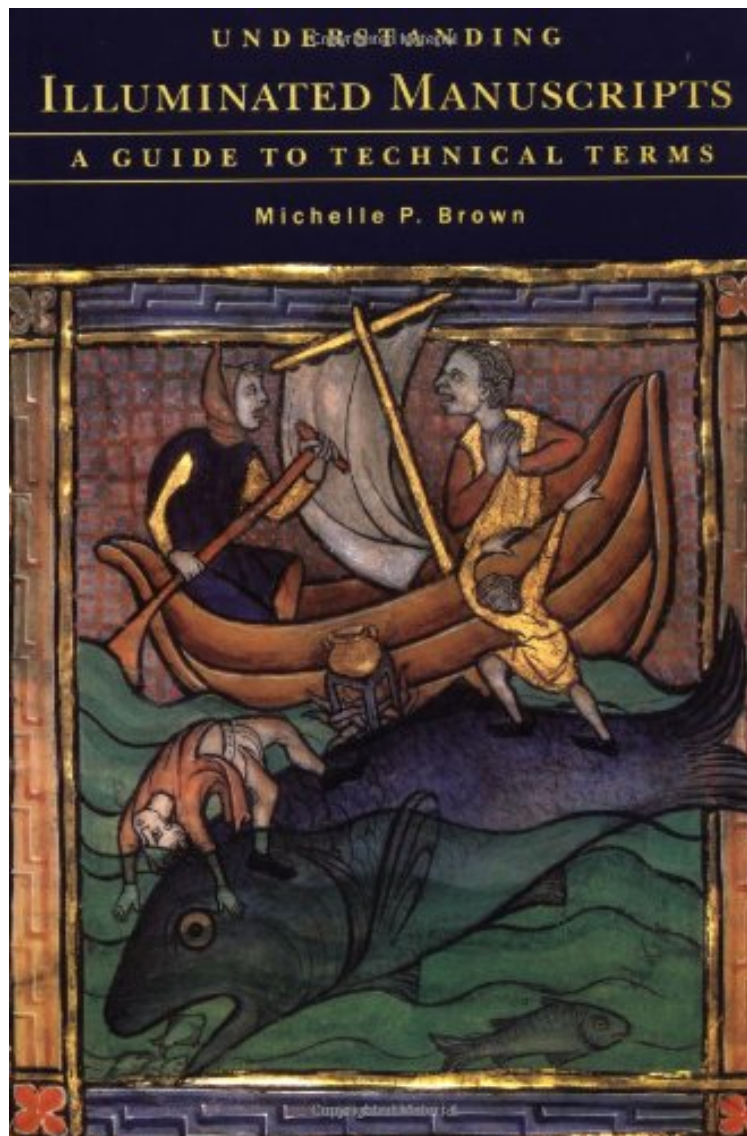


(Mobile pdf) Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At)

## Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At)

*Michelle Brown*

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**Michelle Brown** : **Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A very good "first book" on the subject.By B. MaroldLike another

reviewer, this book was not entirely what I expected, since I glossed over the part which said that it was "A Guide to Gechnical Terms" suggesting a dictionary. The book is arranged entirely on an alphabetical listing of terms relating to pre-Guttenberg illustrated books. What was surprising, and possibly a bit "putting offish", is that the entries cover a wide range of material, roughly divided into the areas of 1) Bookbinding techniques, 2) Symbols painted on the pages and 3) Historical information about major Illuminated manuscripts. It is this variety which makes the book suitable for reading cover to cover. You never know what you don't know, or what may be relevant. I'm sure there are books which cover these three subjects individually. I was expecting that the book would cover the symbology and heraldry of the illustrations, but I welcome the others. If you have NO books on illuminated manuscripts, then I suggest this one. If you have lots already, this one may be too shallow. It is certainly a good "first book" on the subject. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Learning about Illuminated Manuscripts--Gently By Robert B. O'Connor Brown's Guide to Technical Terms is a fascinating journey (alphabetically arranged) of terms specific to illuminated manuscripts mostly from Antiquity in the West to the invention and popularization of printing in the 15th century. To the layman many of the terms describe arcane realities often of the type "Oh, I've see that before, but never knew its name or its purpose." Other terms are probably familiar only to the community already familiar with illuminated manuscripts, but can serve as a quick reminder of important, if highly specific terminology. As a layman with more than I passing interest in illuminated manuscripts, I have found it to be exceptionally informative and easy to use. Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms (Looking At) 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A small but handy tool for those interested in the Middle Ages. By Jan Dierckx 127 pages, 60 color illustrations. This is one of the most beautiful books about illuminated manuscripts I know. The layout of the entries, the explanatory notes, and the many (mostly) color illustrations make this book a very handy and synoptic handbook. Because the editor planned an edition of rather moderate dimensions, some sacrifices had to be made. The rather important production of illuminated manuscripts by the Islamic world and far east countries like China and Japan are not included. I even wonder if they should have been included because the technical terms are more than sufficiently illustrated by the West-European examples. After all this is not an art history-book with an exhaustive intellectual content. Everyone with an interest in the Middle-Ages of western Europe should have this book in his library. A lot of technical terms provide also some insight in medieval society. I would like to give an example. An excerpt from the notes for the entry 'Breviary': "...From the eleventh century on, the various volumes used during the Divine Office (psalter, antiphonal, lectionary, martyrology, and others) were combined to form the breviary which was initially only used by monks but was popularized - in a slightly abridged form - by the Dominicans and Franciscans in the 13th century...." It's beautiful, it's interesting. What more can I say?

What is a florilegium? What is an incipit? What is batarde script? This book--part of the Museum's popular Looking at series--offers definitions of these and numerous other techniques, processes, and materials used in medieval illuminated manuscripts. Concise and readable explanations of the technical terms most frequently encountered by the museum-goer are presented in an easily portable format. With numerous illustrations, many of them in color, this volume will be invaluable to all readers wishing to increase their understanding and enjoyment of illuminated manuscripts.