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THE MORGAN'S *LINDAU GOSPELS*—THE MUSEUM'S MOST SPECTACULAR JEWELED MANUSCRIPT—RECEIVES PUBLIC SHOWING THROUGH MAY 1

The Display is Part of a Larger, Enhanced Lighting Project in the Museum's Historic McKim Building

New York, NY, March 2, 2016 — The Lindau Gospels, one of the great masterpieces from the Morgan Library & Museum's renowned collection of illuminated manuscripts, is being shown for a limited time through May 1 under new lighting conditions in the library of the institution's landmark 1906 McKim building.

The book is so important in the history of the Morgan's collecting activities it is referenced as "M1" or manuscript number one, a designation given to it by the museum's first director, Belle da Costa Greene. The covers, which were created approximately one hundred years apart in the late eighth and ninth centuries, contain plates made of solid gold relief, blue star sapphires, glowing emeralds, red garnets, and pearls. It is considered one of the greatest jeweled manuscripts ever made.



Jeweled upper cover of the Lindau Gospels. Court School of Charles the Bald Lindau Gospels, in Latin, Switzerland, Abbey of St. Gall, late ninth century ca. 880, 350 x 275 mm. Purchased by Pierpont Morgan, 1901, MS M.1. The Morgan Library & Museum. Photography by Graham S. Haber.

"We are delighted to show this masterpiece for the first time under enhanced lighting conditions," said Colin B. Bailey, director of the Morgan. "It is truly one of the Morgan's foundational works of art. Visitors now have the opportunity to see the book's extraordinary front cover in all its splendor."



Upper cover of the Lindau Gospels (detail). Court School of Charles the Bald Lindau Gospels, in Latin, Switzerland, Abbey of St. Gall, late ninth century ca. 880, 350 x 275 mm. Purchased by Pierpont Morgan, 1901, MS M.1. The Morgan Library & Museum.

The display is just one feature of a larger project directed by Bailey to improve lighting conditions in many rooms and spaces in the McKim building, which was designed by Charles Follen McKim for museum founder Pierpont Morgan. Included in the ongoing initiative is the lighting of the library or East Room; the study or West Room; and the North Room which houses ancient Near Eastern seals and gold and jeweled early medieval personal ornaments.

“I hope that a visit to the McKim building is on everyone’s itinerary when they come to the Morgan,” Bailey said. “In many ways it is the heart and soul of the institution. We want visitors to engage fully with its unforgettable architecture and decoration, ceiling and wall murals, and numerous art treasures. The newly lit spaces will help accomplish that.”

ABOUT THE LINDAU GOSPELS

Named after the Abbey of Lindau on Lake Constance (Germany), the manuscript contains the text of the four Gospels. The front cover dates to ca. 870–80 and was likely produced in eastern France, while the back cover is earlier, dating to the late eighth century, and probably created in the region around Salzburg, Austria. The text itself is later still (ca. 880–90) and was written and illuminated in St. Gall (Switzerland). At some unknown point in time, precious silks from Byzantium and the Middle East were attached to the inside covers of the manuscript, thus adding yet another layer of complexity to this fascinating object.

For the first time, the Morgan has made available on its website a fully digitized version of the manuscript that allows users to examine the book's many unique features in close-up utilizing a zoom function. It can be found at themorgan.org/collection/lindau-gospels.



View of the Library, also referred to as the East Room, in the historic McKim building. The Morgan Library & Museum. Photography by Graham S. Haber.



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The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, the Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, music venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. A century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, and the 2010 refurbishment of the original library, the Morgan

reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

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