



FROM: Carol Kuperstock
624-4147

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT DISPLAY PLANNED AT
PITT'S UNIVERSITY GALLERY

PITTSBURGH, March 1 -- "Color of the Middle Ages," facsimiles of illuminated manuscripts, will be on display March 12 - April 18 in the University Art Gallery, located in the Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Building, University of Pittsburgh.

The exhibition, which will contain some 400 color reproductions from the Book of Durrow to the Breviarium Grimani, is partly the result of a graduate seminar on illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages.

According to Carl Nordenfalk, Mellon Professor of Fine Arts, "The illuminated manuscripts have a unique position in the history of Medieval art by being so well preserved and offering such a great variety of pictures and ornaments. Far from being 'minor' art, it attracted all through the centuries the leading artists for kings and great churchmen."

A new technique will be used to display the open books by mounting them, along with additional miniature reproductions, on panels suspended from the gallery walls. This will give the exhibition a "picture book effect," according to Dr. Nordenfalk. The show will embrace a variety of themes including Biblical images, poetry, history, botany and engineering.

In addition, a French film on some of the masterpieces of Medieval book illumination in the Bibliotheque Nationale, "Images Médiévales," will be shown at the opening and on March 12-14 at 3 p.m.

More than 30 publishing houses have loaned books and supplementary plates to the exhibition which is the result of two years' planning.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m.; closed Monday.

-30-

3-1-76/slc