

SUPPORT

The National Library of Australia 2014



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The National Library of Australia is the custodian of Australia's documentary heritage—we share the nation's stories and safeguard them for future generations.

We develop and conserve our magnificent collections, including books, personal papers, drawings, paintings, photography, maps, objects and oral history recordings, and make them freely accessible to everyone.

We invite you to join our community of supporters and become part of this important work by donating to the National Library of Australia in 2014. This year, we seek your support for two exciting initiatives: preservation and digitisation of the Library's rare medieval manuscripts, and access programs for our Treasures Gallery.

Help Us Preserve Medieval Manuscripts in the National Library's Collection

It is surprising to discover that there are 228 medieval manuscripts in the Library's collection. These little known items have been acquired as part of some of our most significant formed collections, including the Clifford, Rex Nan Kivell and Petherick Collections, as well as smaller family collections.

The most famous item in the Clifford Collection is the Chertsey Cartulary, the only medieval cartulary held in Australia and one of a very small number held outside Britain. This rare volume contains charters, accounts and property transactions of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter at Chertsey, Surrey, between 1312 and 1345. During this period, the abbey, which was probably founded in Saxon times, was extremely prosperous.

In the Petherick Collection, we hold an English psalter in Latin dating from the 14th century. This volume is of particular significance because it contains evidence of Welsh ownership, which is quite rare and suggests that the volume was secretly conveyed to Wales after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. Some of the pages include delightful notes made by a 16th-century school boy. Digitisation of the volume will allow further study by scholars and enable its 'digital repatriation' to Wales.

With your support, the Library will undertake essential preservation and commence digitising the manuscripts to enable their access by a worldwide audience. By providing online access to these rare and fragile documents, we can create a lasting legacy, making the medieval past available to scholars throughout the world.

Support Our Treasures Gallery Access Programs

Alternatively, you may wish to make a contribution towards initiatives to improve access to our Treasures Gallery. Since opening in late 2011, over 260,000 Australians have visited the Treasures Gallery, including nearly 30,000 school children.

In the coming year, the Treasures Gallery Support Fund will assist us to share the Library's treasures and the story of our nation's journey with an even larger audience. Your support will provide opportunities for new audiences to explore the Treasures Gallery online and to provide enquiring young minds with new education opportunities, based on the items in the Gallery.



Catholic Church, *Book of Hours* c. 1400.
nla.ms-ms1097-9

Professor Michelle Brown, Professor Emerita of Medieval Manuscript Studies at the University of London, and former Curator of Medieval and Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library, visited the National Library in 2013. Of particular interest to Professor Brown was a psalter from the Petherick Collection showing rare evidence of Welsh ownership, which she is keen for the Library to share with the National Library of Wales. She was also enthusiastic about the possibility that two manuscripts, with unrelated provenance, might contain similar calendars of saints, a rare and wonderful connection to find in one library collection. Professor Brown was also able to date an unidentified missal fragment from the Rex Nan Kivell Collection to the 10th century, thereby making it the oldest known manuscript at the Library. Her expert insight and advice has greatly added to our knowledge and understanding of the collection and provided several avenues for further investigation.



NATIONAL
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Illuminated Psalterium 1300s.
nla.cat-vn2002511

nla.gov.au

Donation Form

To contribute to the preservation of medieval manuscripts from the National Library's collection or the Treasures Gallery Support Fund, donate online at nla.gov.au/support-us, or return the donation form below. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.



Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter's (Chertsey, England), Cartulary 1312–1345.
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2014 National Library of Australia Appeal

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