



Written Treasures

50 Manuscripts from Medieval Europe

André Bouwman
Irene O'Daly

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- Highlights from the oldest manuscript collection in the Low Countries
- Immerse yourself in the fascinating world of medieval copyists, book illuminators and collectors
- The stories behind, among others, Cicero's *Opera philosophica*, Adelard of Bath's *Regulae abaci* and Lucretius' *De rerum natura*
- With a preface by book historian Frits van Oostrom

For centuries, we have studied the works of Cicero, Lucretius and Horace. We draw inspiration from the knightly tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Our knowledge of the world builds on the writings of classical and medieval poets, philosophers, theologians and jurists. But without the diligent monks and copyists of the Middle Ages, these texts would not have been preserved. Today's world is unthinkable without this transmission of written knowledge.

Written Treasures introduces you to the fascinating world of medieval manuscripts. From the treasury of the Leiden University Library, 50 extraordinary manuscripts are selected: beautiful showpieces but also quickly notated works on second-rate parchment. Thirty-Eight experts highlight their content, appearance, design and their journey through generations of users and possessors to our times. With beautiful illustrations and accessible texts, this book is indispensable for history and book lovers. It is a celebration of cultural heritage and a tribute to the exceptional transmission of written knowledge through the ages.

André Bouwman is curator of medieval manuscripts at Leiden University Libraries. **Irene O'Daly** is associate professor at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society and specialises in book history, history of science and the reception of classical ideas and texts in the Middle Ages. With contributions from 36 guest authors from the Netherlands, Belgium and abroad.