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Walters Ms. W.71, Saints' lives

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Shelf mark	W.71
Manuscript	Saints' lives
Text title	Lives of SS. Bernard and Marie d'Oignies and On the lamentations of Jeremiah
Author	<i>Authority name:</i> William, of St. Thierry, Abbot of Saint-Thierry, ca. 1085-1148
Author	<i>Authority name:</i> Jacques, de Vitry, ca. 1170-1240
Author	<i>Authority name:</i> Hugh, of St. Victor, 1096-1141
Author	<i>Authority name:</i> Hildegard, of Bingen, Saint, 1098-1179 <i>Known as:</i> Hildegard von Bingen
Abstract	<p>This manuscript, which was made at or for the Cistercian monastery at Himmerode, Germany, is a compilation of several texts written in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. The first and third texts, William of St. Thierry's Life of St. Bernard and Hugh of St. Victor's On the lamentations of Jeremiah, are contemporary but were written separately and then bound together. A third text, Jacques de Vitry's Life of St. Marie d'Oignies, was inserted between them at a later time. Several additional texts were added to blank folios in the thirteenth century, most notably a letter by Hildegard of Bingen on the final folio. Many different hands can be identified throughout the manuscript, sometimes changing every few lines; this variety of scribes is especially evident in the third text. Although the book contains no pictorial illuminations, large, ornate decorated initials, drawn in bright green and red, announce the beginning of each chapter.</p>
Date	Late 12th century / early 13th century CE
Origin	Himmerode, Germany
Form	Book
Genre	Theological
Language:	The primary language in this manuscript is Latin.

Support material	<p>Parchment</p> <p>Medium-weight parchment, unevenly finished with hair sides often darker and rougher; heavy wear visible to the lower corners; flyleaves of modern paper</p>
Extent	<p>Foliation: ii+139+ii</p> <p>Modern pencil foliation in the upper right corners of rectos</p>
Collation	<p>Formula: ii, 1-10(8), 11(10,-8), 12(8), 13(8,+ tipped-in slip, fol. 100*, after third leaf), 14-17(8), 18(2), ii</p> <p>Catchwords: None</p> <p>Signatures: Quires 1 and 2 marked "I" and "II" in a nineteenth-century black hand, middle bottom margin, last folio; quires 5, 6, 7, and 9 marked "v" through "ix," middle bottom margin, last folio, in a thirteenth-century(?) hand; quires 13, 14, and 17, marked "x," "xi," and "xiii" respectively, middle bottom margin, last folio, in the same thirteenth-century hand, which also marked quire 18 "xv," middle bottom margin, first folio</p> <p>Comments: Quires begin on fols. 1(1), 9(2), 17(3), 25(4), 33(5), 41(6), 49(7), 57(8), 65(9), 73(10), 81(11), 90(12), 98(13), 106(14), 114(15), 122(16), 130(17), and 138(18); present quires 10-12, containing the Life of Marie D'Oignies, possibly not present at the time the thirteenth-century(?) signatures were added</p>
Dimensions	22.4 cm wide by 32.0 cm high
Written surface	17.7 cm wide by 24.3 cm high
Layout	<p>Columns: 2</p> <p>Ruled lines: 30</p>
Contents:	<p><i>fols. 1r - 139v:</i></p> <p><i>Title:</i> Lives of SS. Bernard and Marie d'Oignies and On the lamentations of Jeremiah</p> <p><i>Hand note:</i> Written in pre-Gothic bookhand</p> <p><i>Decoration note:</i> Nine large red and/or green decorated initials (5-15 lines); small red or green initials throughout (2-5 lines); opening lines of first two major incipits in enlarged alternating red and green letters; rubrics in red or else in black struck through with red; text in black and brown ink</p> <p><i>fols. 1r - 72v:</i></p> <p><i>Title:</i> Life of St. Bernard</p> <p><i>Author:</i> William, of St. Thierry, Abbot of Saint-Thierry, ca. 1085-1148</p> <p><i>Rubric:</i> Incipit prologus domini Guillelmi abbatis Sancti Theoderici. In vita Sancti Bernardi clarevallis abbatis.</p> <p><i>Incipit:</i> Scripturus vitam servi tui ad honorem</p> <p><i>Text note:</i> Incomplete; contains the first recension of the life of St. Bernard, dating to ca. 1155; lacks prologues to books 3 through 5</p>

Decoration note: Ornate decorated initials on fols. 1r-v, 22 r-v, 23r, 41r, 51r, and 66r

fols. 73r - 97v:

Title: Life of Marie d'Oignies

Author: Jacques, de Vitry, ca. 1170-1240

Rubric: Incipit prologus domini Jacobi accharonensis episcopi in vitam ancille Christi Marie de Ognies ad dominum fulconem tolosanum episcopum

Incipit: Precepit dominus discipulis suis

Text note: Complete; does not contain the supplement of Thomas of Cantimpré, written before 1240

Decoration note: Decorated initial on fol. 73r

fols. 97v - 97v:

Title: Added prayers and prologue

Incipit: Beata progenies unde gloriosa virgo

Text note: Four texts added in thirteenth-century cursive hands: prayer to the Virgin, prayer to St. Anne, prayer to the elevation of the host, and a prologue to the text by Hugh of St. Victor found on fol. 98r

Decoration note: None

fols. 98r - 139r:

Title: On the lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah

Author: Hugh, of St. Victor, 1096-1141

Rubric: Incipit tractatus Magistri Hugonis super lamentationes Iheremiae

Incipit: Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena

Text note: Complete; omitted passage added on a one-third-page scrap (fol. 100bis) with the other side being a repeat of fol. 97v in a cursive hand

Decoration note: Decorated initial on fol. 98r

fols. 139v - 139v:

Title: Hildegard of Bingen letter 43

Author: Hildegard, of Bingen, Saint, 1098-1179

Incipit: In vera visione vigilantibus oculis

Text note: Text added to a blank folio in the thirteenth century, being letter #43 of Hildegard of Bingen; contains only her response to a letter from "sacerdotis cuiusdam"

Decoration note: Red initial beginning text

Decoration: *fol. 1r:*



Title: Decorated initial "S" (Scripturus)

Form: Decorated initial "S," 10 lines

Text: Life of St. Bernard

fol. 1v:



Title: Decorated initial "B" (Bernardus)

Form: Decorated initial "B," 15 lines

Text: Life of St. Bernard

fol. 22v:



Title: Decorated initial "V" (Virorum)

Form: Decorated initial "V," 7 lines

Text: Life of St. Bernard

fol. 23r:*Title:* Decorated initial "E" (Ea tempestate)*Form:* Decorated initial "E," 8 lines*Text:* Life of St. Bernard**Binding** The binding is not original.

Red velvet over sixteenth-century(?) boards, with a Limoges champlevé enamel crucifix applied to the upper board; bound by Léon Gruel, Paris, late nineteenth/early twentieth century

Provenance Owned by, and possibly made at, the Cistercian abbey of Himmerode (in the diocese of Trier throughout the medieval period until 1802-1803) (thirteenth-century(?) inscription in top margin of fol. 1r reading "Liber fratrem monachorum sancte marie in hemenrode ordinis cisterciensis" with shelf mark B.viii in lower margin; fols. 71v and 139r with same inscription in a second, fourteenth-century(?) hand, reading "Liber monachorum Sancte Marie in himerode ordinis cisterciensis trevirensis dioces")

Josef von Görres collection, Germany, 1802/3-1902 (nineteenth-century library number N.93 in top margin of fol. 1r)

Görres collection sale, Munich, 1902, Catal.lib.mss. lot 60, p. 12

Gruel and Engelmann collection, Paris, 1902-1903 (bookplate no. 125)

Henry Walters, Baltimore, purchased from Gruel, June 9, 1903

Acquisition Walters Art Museum, 1931, by Henry Walters bequest**Bibliography** Hildegardis Abbatissa, *Epistulae*. Paris: J.-P. Migne, 1855.

De Ricci, Seymour. *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*. Vol. 1. New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1935, p. 820, no. 385.

Schneider, Ambrosius. "Skriptorium und Bibliothek der Cistercienserabtei Himmerod im Rheinland: zur Geschichte klösterlichen Bibliothekswesens im Mittelalter." *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 35 (1952-3): 155-205.

Morson, John. "The Life of St. Bernard: Manuscripts and Recensions in *Collectanea Ordinis Cisterciensium*." *Reformatum* 19 (1957): 54, 58, no. 2.

Schneider, Ambrosius. *Skriptorium und Bibliothek der Abtei Himmerod*:

ein Beitrag zur Geistesgeschichte des Eifelklosters. Himmerod, Germany: Himmerod-Drucke, 1974, p. 30, no. 37.

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