

Mediaeval Decorated Letter 1



The first letter in mediæval psalters (Book of Psalms) – the letter ‘B’ – was often very elaborate and colourful. The letter is the start of Psalm 1 which begins ‘Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly’ in the King James’ version, in Latin this is ‘Beatus vir qui non abiit in consilio impiorum’. The main shape of the letter is in gold and the colours pick out the shapes of the decoration.

Ramsey Psalter, British Library. Harley 2904.

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