

Mediaeval Decorated Letter 3



The letter 'N' from a bible written in in Holland Dutch about 1440. The letter itself is in gold leaf; it stands proud of the page as the gold is laid on gesso; this is a compound containing plaster of Paris and various adhesives, it's applied with a quill and allowed to dry. The gesso is then prepared and the stickiness reactivated by breathing on it and the gold leaf is then applied, finally it is brought up to a brilliant shine with a burnisher – a polished stone in a handle.

BL Add MS 15410, c. 1440

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