Medieval World

History brought to life

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Historical Books

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Medieval World can supply the following books:

The Four Gospels

During the 12 and 13th centuries, the Gospels were divided into chapters and in my edition these are numbered. There are no verse numbers as they did not appear until the 16th century. This book contains the Latin Vulgate texts and is appropriate from about the 9th century.
Limp bound - **£50**. Wooden board binding - **£65**.

The Compleat Surgeon or The Whole Art of Surgery explain'd in a most familiar Method

Charles Gabriel le Clerc was born in 1644 and died in 1700. He was Physician in Ordinary and Privy-Counsellor to the French King. He wrote this complete (at the time) account of surgery and related matters. He wrote it in French of course, but it was translated and added to in later years. This version was published in 1696 and has pages on such things as the qualifications of a surgeon and the art of surgery, a treatise of straps, bandages, splints, swathing-bands, cauteries, leeches, cupping glasses and phlebotomy, a treatise on wounds, ulcers and sutures, a treatise on chirurgical operations, a treatise on luxations, a treatise on medicinal compositions and a table of the chapters. In all, around 200 pages.
Appropriate from 1696.
Limp bound it is written in English - **£40**.

Compendium Medicinae or Gilbertus Anglicus on Medicine

Gilbert of England was an English physician of the Medieval period. He is known chiefly for this encyclopaedic work most probably written between 1230 and 1250. This was an attempt at a comprehensive overview of the best practice in medicine and surgery at the time. Gilbert does not claim to be the originator of most of the book's material but he was the compiler of the information. Although the book dates from the 13th century, it continued to be influential and was even reprinted in 1608. The book contains numerous "cures" (some of them really quite nasty)!
Appropriate from 1250.
Limp bound, it is written in English - **£25**.

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

There is one Tale per book in the original Middle English and limp bound. All of the Tales as well as the Prologue are available.
Suitable from 1380 onwards.
Limp bound - from **£15**. For wooden board binding, add £10.
Some of the Tales have only 9 pages and it is the leather binding that makes up the majority of the cost. You might like to consider having more than one of the Tales bound within your book. If this is what you require, please contact Medieval World for a price.
If you require the complete book (Prologue and all the Tales with or without the Retraction), please contact Medieval World for a price.

Chaucer's Treatise on an Astrolabe

Chaucer's astrolabe treatise is the oldest known technical manual in English. It was written as a basic introduction to the astrolabe for his little son, Lewis. It was certainly the first authoritative treatise on astronomy or an astronomical instrument in English. It is not, however, at all original, a point that Chaucer makes abundantly clear.
Suitable from 1391.
Limp bound, it is available in both Middle English or modern English - **£20**.

Monk's Prayer Book

This contains all the prayers and psalms with hymns and responses for the 7 daily services of a monk.
Appropriate from the 10th century.
Limp bound, it is written in Latin - **£15**. Wooden board binding with leather cover - **£25**.

The Rule of St Benedict or *Regula Benedicti*

This is a book of precepts written by St. Benedict of Nursia for monks living communally under the authority of an abbot. Since about the 7th century it has also been adopted by communities of women. During the 1500 years of its existence, it has become the leading guide in Western Christianity for monastic living in community.
Appropriate from the 7th century.
Limp bound, it is written in English - **£15**. Wooden board binding with leather cover - **£25**.

A Booke of Secrets

A Booke of Secrets is a 1596 translation of a Dutch edition (which itself may have been translated from a 1531 German text) that contains a wonderful collection of ink recipes. These include iron gall ink recipes formulated for paper and parchment, and recipes for making different coloured inks. In addition there are instructions for etching in metal and colouring quill pens.
Appropriate from the 16th century.
Limp bound, it is written in English - **£15**.

Book of Hours

A typical book of hours contains:
A Calendar (of Church feasts/Saints' Days)
An excerpt from each of the four gospels (John, Luke, Matthew, Mark)
The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary
The seven Penitential Psalms (recited to help resist temptation to commit any of the Seven Deadly Sins)
A Litany of Saints
An Office for the Dead (prayed to reduce the time spent by friends and relatives in purgatory)
The Hours of the Cross

The Hours of the Virgin are at least as old as the ninth century; it is thought that they were developed by Benedict of Aniane (c. 750-821). For 300 years the Book of Hours was the bestseller of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance period. From the mid-13th to the mid-16th century, more Books of Hours were commissioned and produced, bought and sold, bequeathed and inherited, printed and reprinted than any other text, including the Bible. One of the reasons for this popularity lies in the book's contents. The Book of Hours is a prayer book that contains, at its heart, the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Hours of the Virgin). For this reason the Latin term for the book is Horae (Hours). The Hours of the Virgin are a sequence of prayers to the Mother of God that, ideally, were recited throughout the course of the entire day. This is a generic version but the texts are principally drawn from the English/Latin Primer of 1599, so that is its "appropriate from" date. However, the contents changed little from the 13th to the 15th centuries and so it could be suitable for earlier periods.
Limp bound, it is written in English - **£45**.

Liber Juratus or The Sworne Booke of Honorius

This is a 13th century Grimoire of the Solomonic cycle, purportedly written by Honorius of Thebes. It is one of the foundation works if European magic and is one of the oldest and most influential texts of medieval magic. It is supposedly the product of a conference of magicians who decided to condense all their knowledge into one volume. It covers a large variety of topics, from how to save your soul from purgatory to the catching of thieves or finding of treasures. It has many instructions on how to conjure and command demons, to work other magical operations, and knowledge of what lies in Heaven. Like many Grimoires, it has lengthy dissertations for proper operation and the seals to be used.
Appropriate from 1400.
Limp bound, it is written in English with parts in Latin - **£20**.
It can be supplied with 12 A4 sheets in modern English for an extra £3.

Currently being researched with a view to adding to this list are:

A Herbal
A Book of the Beast (Bestiary)