With over 800 disjunct leaves, approximately 100 legal documents and nearly two dozen codices, the collection of pre-1600 manuscript material at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBMS) of The Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL) is modest, but diverse—and it continues to grow. Still not fully recorded are the uncounted (but significant) number of manuscript fragments recycled in the Library’s early bindings. And if recent history is any indication of future trends in collection growth, new acquisitions will continue to be added to RBMS’s holdings at a steady rate.

Since Autumn 2009, through a combination of targeted purchases and donations, RBMS has acquired eight new codices, over thirty disjunct leaves from manuscripts produced from 1100-1450, an extensive fifteenth-sixteenth century family archive, a substantial fourteenth-century trial record and more. Overall, the collection includes theological treatises, pastoralia, humanist texts, diplomatics, liturgical and musical books, patristic works, secular literature, hagiography, devotional tracts, biblical materials and academic expositions. RBMS’s manuscripts offer teachers, researchers and students a wealth of original primary materials to use in their own interdisciplinary scholarly work.

Offered here is a small selection of the diverse array of manuscripts available for use at The Ohio State University. For further information about RBMS’s medieval and Renaissance manuscript holdings, please contact the collection’s curator:

Dr. Eric J. Johnson
e-mail: johnson.4156@osu.edu
Johannes Herolt. Sermones de tempore et de sanctis. Sermones quadragesimales.
Germany, ca. 1450-75.

Ps.-Sextus Aurelius Victor. De viris illustribus Romae.
Italy, ca. 1450-75.


Terence. Andria. Florence, ca. 1450-75.

Johannes Herolt. Sermones de tempore et de sanctis. Sermones quadragesimales. Germany, ca. 1450-75.

Hippolytus Grassetus. Poetici lusus. Italy, 1631.

Pocket Bible w/ reader’s glossing. England, ca. 1240.
Donations in support of RBMS’s manuscripts acquisition program can be made by sending a check (payable to “The Ohio State University Libraries”) to the address below. Please be sure to include the fund number and code (#308498, “fmdv”) on your check.

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