

## ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS FROM SIR JOHN ILOTT

Over the years, both before and since he became the first President of the Friends of the Turnbull Library in 1939, Sir John Ilott has been a practical and generous friend, evincing his interest in many ways. Of this his latest proof was the presentation of a group of extremely interesting and beautiful MSS. of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The Library is especially conscious of the nature of this gift, for these volumes have been for more than thirty years among the cherished tomes of their owner's distinguished library. For anyone who has a feeling for books, and books of such antiquity, association and elegance, to part with them calls for both sacrifice and a generous public spirit. The character of the Turnbull Library, founded in the choice collection of Alexander Turnbull, is suited to the care and preservation of such treasures. The Library will do its best to honour this handsome gift.

In addition to the MSS. themselves, Sir John included some other items, choice printed books, and some notable for binding, supplementing a group that he had transferred a few years ago.

The rather formal catalogue descriptions that follow do not fairly do justice to the quality of these volumes, but they provide a record that can be of use to the scholar.

*Biblia Sacra Latina.* MS. on vellum. French XIVth Cent. 270 leaves. 7¾" by 5⅞". Written in small gothic letters of extraordinary regularity and perfection in two columns of 53 lines. Decorated with several finely painted large initial letters, begins and ends imperfectly. The Prologue of St. Jerome is supplied in a neat XVth Century hand. Modern green morocco leather. In a book box.

*Missale Romanum cum Kalendario.* Illuminated MS. on vellum. England XVth Cent. 294 leaves. 10¾" by 7". Gothic characters. Two columns of 39 lines. Calendar in red and black begins with July. Some pages decorated with full borders of bar pattern with floral scrolls. Numerous small capitals in burnished gold on decorated coloured ground. Oak boards half-covered stamped pigskin. In a book box.