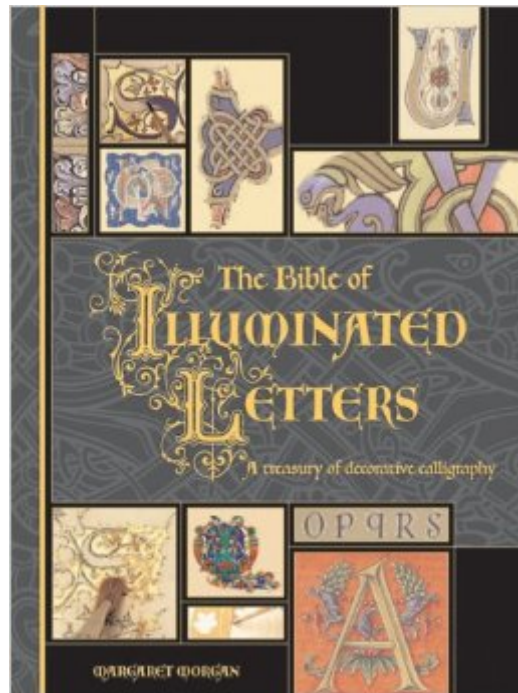


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# The Bible Of Illuminated Letters: A Treasury Of Decorative Calligraphy (Quarto Book)



## Synopsis

The ancient art of illuminating manuscripts is currently attracting many new enthusiasts among artists, art students, and lovers of calligraphy. The Bible of Illuminated Letters is a volume they'll all want to add to their collections. It presents step-by-step instructions for recreating twelve illuminated alphabets. Among them are Celtic, Saxon, Gothic, Romanesque, Modern Revival, and seven more, including several modern scripts. Detailed diagrams instruct on creating upper- and lower-case letters, as well as on ways for designing borders and decorations. More ambitious students can also follow clear directions for gilding--decorating with gold leaf--as was originally done in medieval European monasteries. Readers and students of illumination who open this book will find: a history of illumination; required tools, techniques, and materials for illuminating; instruction in layout and design; and steps to follow in order to create 12 alphabet styles. This beautiful book also features a picture gallery of outstanding historical and contemporary illuminated letters, as well as a glossary and index. More than 400 inspiring color illustrations in total.

## Book Information

Series: Quarto Book

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Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.2 x 8.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #121,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Design](#) #49 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Calligraphy](#) #61 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Typography](#)

## Customer Reviews

I highly recommend this book to any fine or graphic artist, even if you are not into calligraphy or have any intension of doing any artwork resembling classic illumination. I went to art school for many years, divided my time between both fine arts and visual communication, and this book is glorious review encapsulated in between two covers. There is stuff covered that I wish I had been taught in the seven years I went to art school! Morgan's book discusses everything from different types of

paper, finding the "grain" and why it is important to making one's own gesso and egg tempera paints. It discusses the difference between the many types of materials for gilding with step-by-step photographed instructions, including how to pick out vellum and prepare it for your work. It warns you of pitfalls and common mistakes and how to avoid and correct them. It even discusses layout and paste-up and the importance of preliminary work and preparing your work space. The first half of the book is about tools and techniques and the second half is devoted to specific types of alphabets, their history and step-by-step photographs and instructions on their execution. Though this book is not for a typical scrap-booker that is looking for a quick way to make fancy decorations in between batches of cupcakes, it is an almost complete curriculum for the art of illumination in a book\*. It goes through advanced art techniques step by step making them easy to understand so that you feel comfortable enough to begin practicing these. It is a great primer on the tools most artists use or may have questions about including: paper, vellum, parchment, brushes, pens, gouache, watercolor, egg tempera, inks, flat gilding, raised and burnished gold, shell gold, metallic gouache and powders.

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