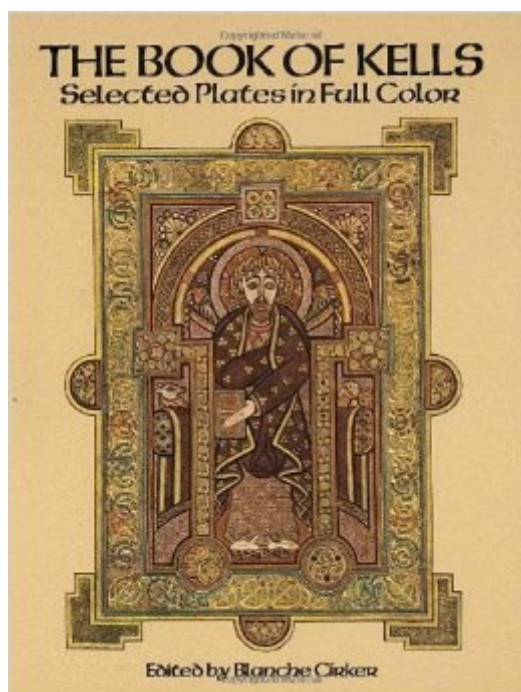


The book was found

The Book Of Kells: Selected Plates In Full Color



Synopsis

"Here you may see the face of majesty, divinely drawn, here the mystic symbols of the Evangelists. . . . You will make out intricacies, so delicate and subtle, so exact and compact, so full of knots and links, with colours so fresh and vivid, that you might say that all this was the work of an angel, and not of a man." — Giraldu Cambrensis, *Topographia Hiberniae*, ca. 1185. Gerald of Wales wrote his ecstatic description of what is most probably the Book of Kells 800 years ago, some 300 years after the work appeared. It remains the best description; he felt and conveyed the Book's power, the mystery that made it even then unique among early medieval manuscripts. While clearly subject to international influence (Celtic, British, Norman; possibly Italian, Byzantine, and Coptic), the Book of Kells' painters and scribes illumined their work with a purely idiosyncratic beauty. The Book of Kells is more an icon than a typical evangelistary; indeed, the Saint Jerome text of the gospels is frequently corrupt or carelessly rendered, so intent were the artists on their ornament and iconography. One may still see the glorious ornament on display at Trinity College, Dublin; a more accessible version is this, newly reproduced from a rare facsimile edition. Thirty-two full-page, full-color plates have been selected and painstakingly printed to retain the ineffable handpainted impression of the original leaves. All the full-page decorations, portraits, and illustrations are included, as well as a representative sampling of the textual leaves, in their graceful Insular (half-uncial) calligraphy, interspersed and initialed with an imaginative, fanciful, and even humorous bestiary of lions, lambs, eagles, otters, cats, dragons, birds, fish, and snakes; strange men are seen in the cross-armed Osiris position, entwined in lion's tails, snakes, vines, and peacock feathers. The interlacing and spiraling follow the Insular tradition; in botanical ornament the Book stands apart from that school. The illustrations include vital specimens of Western art: the first image of the Virgin and Child in a Western manuscript, and numerous early representations of the Apocalyptic visionary symbols of the Evangelists; symbols that lost their eeriness in later, diluted form, but that in the Book of Kells, according to one scholar, "retain their wild, unearthly quality. They are perhaps the most striking element in the decoration of the Book." Perusers of this Book, casual and serious students of art, religion, or Western culture, will echo Giraldu, who wrote: "For my part, the oftener I see the book, and the more carefully I study it, the more I am lost in ever fresh amazement, and I see more and more wonders in the book."

Book Information

Series: Dover Fine Art, History of Art

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (October 1, 1982)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486243451

ISBN-13: 978-0486243450

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.1 x 12.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #290,644 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations](#) #92 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Book Design](#) #118 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Religious](#)

Customer Reviews

This book of color plates seems amazing, and almost is. However, the quality of the plates falls short of the mark. The colors are dull and faded, and the image resolution far lower than it should be. The Chi Rho page, probably the most beautiful page in the Book of Kells, shows almost none of the amazingly minute detail that it should. Other books--like the Thames & Hudson--show far more detail with more vivid colors than this. On the other hand, this book has larger pages than others, which is nice.

32 full color plates from one of the world's greatest books. Although it is Christian art, the Kells reflects centuries of preChristian style & mystery in its bestiary of cats & dragons, its peacock feathers, poses & intertwining lines. There is something in this art that transcends time & religion. The price is a bargain. Bob Rixon

The Book of Kells was some what of a disappointment to me. The art work from this ancient book is beautiful, but I was expecting more commentary on the work. It also a very thin soft cover book which will in time be creased and damaged. I wanted more backstory since I tend to be a ancient art buff. But if all you are interested in is the art and only wanted to see the intricate designs its fine.

Large pages, to be sure, but the colors are dull and the pictures are not as sharp as I expected. Perhaps the actual colors are as aged and dull as they appear in this book. But I've often read of the amazing detail of the drawings in the Book of Kells, and in these pictures the fine details become

blurs. Diagrams that were surely made with straight lines (e.g. the columns and frames of different pictures) in the original are bent in this book. I'd hoped to frame some of its pictures and display them in my house, but they don't really look good enough for that. It's OK if you buy it to avoid postage on another order, which is what I did.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Book of Kells: Selected Plates in Full Color Color Your Own Book of Kells (Dover Art Coloring Book) The Official M.I. Hummel Price Guide: Figurines & Plates (Hummel Figurines and Plates) The Official Hummel Price Guide: Figurines & Plates (Hummel Figurines and Plates) Nifty Plates from the Fifty States: Take a Ride Across Our Great Nation*Learn About the States from Their License Plates! Besler's Book of Flowers and Plants: 73 Full-Color Plates from Hortus Eystettensis, 1613 (Dover Pictorial Archive) Fashions and Costumes from Godey's Lady's Book: Including 8 Plates in Full Color (Dover Fashion and Costumes) Songs of Experience: Facsimile Reproduction with 26 Plates in Full Color (Dover Fine Art, History of Art) Adventures of Dolly Dingle Paper Dolls: 16 Antique Plates in Full Color Ilsee: 48 Full-Color Plates from Mucha's Art Nouveau Masterpiece (Dover Pictorial Archive Series) The Book of Kells: An Illustrated Introduction to the Manuscript in Trinity College, Dublin (Second Edition) The Book of Kells Full-Color Cigar Labels CD-ROM and Book (Dover Full-Color Electronic Design) Just Add Color: Flora and Fauna: 30 Original Illustrations to Color, Customize, and Hang - Bonus Plus 4 Full-Color Images by Lisa Congdon Ready to Display! How To Color Adult Coloring Books - Adult Coloring 101: Learn Easy Tips Today. How To Color For Adults, How To Color With Colored Pencils, Step By Step ... How To Color With Colored Pencils And More) Full, Full, Full of Love Mosaic and Tessellated Patterns: How to Create Them, with 32 Plates to Color (Dover Art Instruction) Ulysses S. Grant : Memoirs and Selected Letters : Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant / Selected Letters, 1839-1865 (Library of America) Selected Shorts: Food Fictions (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story) Selected Shorts: New American Stories (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story)

[Dmca](#)