

MEDIAEVALIA AT THE LILLY

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March 1, 2022 4:30 PM ZOOM
Register: <https://forms.gle/9RLvgpjFGStiKLoo8>

Meetings With “Mundane”
Manuscripts: Curiosities
And Opportunities In
Private Manuscript
Collections

Eric J. Johnson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Curator of
Thompson Special Collections

Christopher de Hamel describes his book, *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts* as “a book about visiting important medieval manuscripts and what they tell us and why they matter.” This talk takes de Hamel’s book as its inspiration by focusing on why and how certain manuscripts matter. But it shifts the focus away from some of the most beautiful and historically significant of all medieval manuscripts, all of them located in major institutional libraries or museums, and instead refocuses our attention onto some of the more commonplace, but still surprising—and surprisingly useful—manuscripts waiting to be found in the hands of private collectors. Including a previously unknown group of 14th-century motets, a complete suite of every major (and not so major) style of medieval biblical glossing, and a fragmented Breviary that traveled from Norwich, England to America only to be “lost” during the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, this talk will highlight the holdings of a single private Midwestern American collection and demonstrate the importance of looking beyond library stacks and museum galleries in our search for meaningful medieval manuscripts.

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