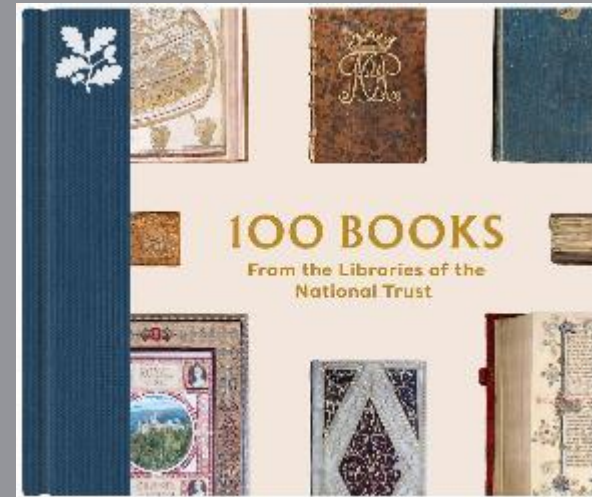


100 Books from the Libraries of the National Trust

Yvonne Lewis, Tim Pye, Nicola Thwaite

Gathered together in this beautifully illustrated volume are 100 important books and manuscripts selected from more than 400,000 held in National Trust libraries across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



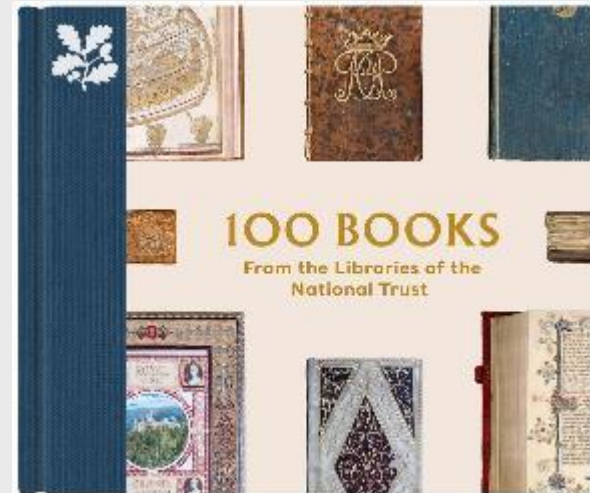
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Book

Key Sales Points

- Beautifully illustrated for a general audience.
- Major marketing campaign – promotion in the National Trust members' magazine (circulation 2.6 million), across National Trust social media, the National Trust website and other National Trust channels.
- Events, talks, signings and displays at National Trust properties across the UK; digitally streamed events and talks; related features in non-National Trust magazines and press.





The Chevalier Hours

Jean Fouquet (c.1420–c.1481) was France's most important 15th-century artist. He painted for the French kings Charles VII and Louis IX and their courtiers. Most French works of art from this period survive as manuscript miniatures. Celebrated within his lifetime and for around 50 years after his death, Fouquet was forgotten by 1600.

One of Fouquet's most important clients was Étienne Chevalier, the Treasurer of France. In the 1450s, Fouquet produced for him a book of hours, known as *The Chevalier Hours*. It was dismembered during the 18th century. All that survives of the original book of hours are the 46 full-page miniatures, of which this is one.

The main image on this leaf shows St Michael battling a seven-headed dragon. The results of the battle are shown below. Within each of the full-page illustrations Fouquet included his own initials and the cipher of his patron, YL.

Upton House, Warwickshire - St Michael slaying the dragon [from the Hours of Étienne Chevalier] - Jean Fouquet - MS2 - Gouache on vellum - 26 x 17mm (page) - NT 446781





6. Book of Hours NT 1181034 Powis Castle

Books of hours are lavishly decorated manuscripts that began to be produced in the 13th century to cater to the growing demand among lay people to participate in the daily devotions usually undertaken by monks, nuns and priests. The thriving scribal industry in Flanders – specifically Bruges in this example – responded to this demand by producing many devotional manuscripts, some of which include English text: an indication that they were intended for export to Britain. The copy at Powis Castle also includes English iconography relating to Thomas Becket and St Michael's Mount.

The Powis Hours was originally produced for Eleanor Percy (c.1474 – 1530), to celebrate her marriage to the 3rd Duke of Buckingham. Likely concealed during the Reformation – none of the imagery or text has been defaced – the book was passed down to another Eleanor Percy (c.1582 – 1650), who brought it to Powis Castle when she married the 1st Baron Powis. This strong female provenance, and its status as the only medieval manuscript in a Welsh National Trust library, makes this an incredibly significant book. TP

Powis Castle, Powis • The Powis Hours • Unknown
Illuminated by Willem Vreling, Bruges • c.1480-90 • vellum,
leather • 19.8 x 15.8 x 5cm • NT 1181034





An artistic and scientific masterwork

Benjamin Wilkes (d.1749) was a portrait painter but also an amateur entomologist and a member of London's Aurelian Society, an important early group of insect lovers. He both wrote and illustrated this work, which is notable for the detailed scientific observation of the text as well as its artistic achievement. Its 120 plates, individually coloured by hand, show the complete life cycle of each insect and the plants it feeds on.

Illustrated works like these were extremely expensive to produce and so were often sold by subscription – people paid before the book was printed – and produced in instalments. One subscriber was Mary, Countess of Stamford (1704–22) of Dunham Massey. We know that she used the book because she has handwritten the common name of the insect on each plate. Here the Oak Eggar, named not for its habitat but for the acorn-like shape of its cocoon. NT

Dunham Massey, Cheshire - The English Moths and Butterflies - Benjamin Wilkes - 1749 - Ink on paper, col. - folio - NT304330.978





'A mass of such surpassing loveliness'

A masterpiece of Victorian garden design, Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire was the creation of James Bateman (1811–97) to house his collection of plants from around the world. His passion for exotic plants led him into botanical publishing, the pinnacle of which is his epic book on Mexican and Guatemalan orchids.

Published in London in 1843, in a limited edition of 125 copies, Bateman's *Orchidaceae* is the largest and arguably the finest orchid book ever produced. The 40 life-size, hand-coloured lithographic plates were created predominantly from designs by two botanical artists, Sarah Drake and Augusta Withers, and are accompanied by two humorous vignettes by George Cruikshank (one of which references the immense size of the book).

This copy is from the library at Tatton Park, the former home of the Egerton family. Bateman may have been acquainted with Tatton through his marriage to Maria Egerton, a distant member of the extended Egerton family. TP

Tatton Park, Cheshire • The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala • James Bateman • 1843 • Paper, leather • (Dimension 18C) • NT 1072701

