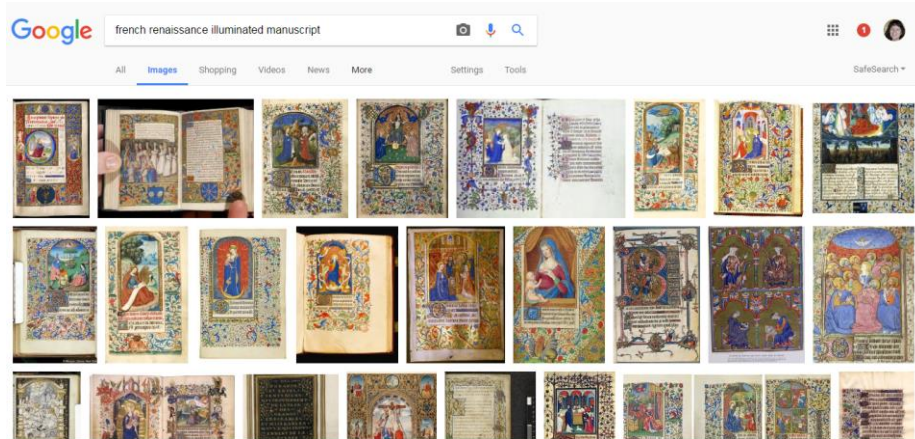


Online Researching for Scroll Inspiration, or “Pinterest is the Devil!”

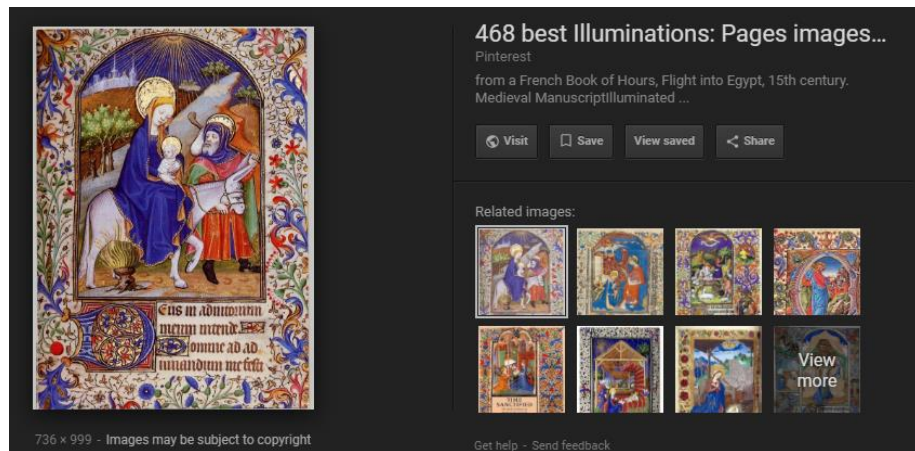
by Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope

Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, Kingdom of Æthelmearc

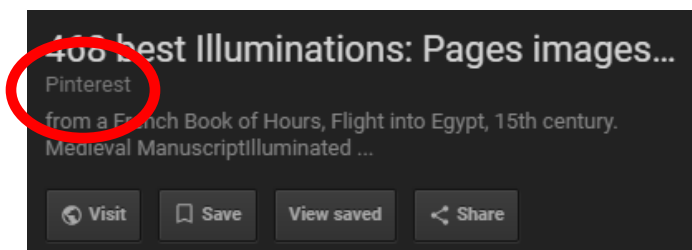
You just got a scroll assignment. What to do next? Search online for a design, right? So let's say you search on "French renaissance illuminated manuscript" and select **Images**. Jackpot!



You click an image you like.



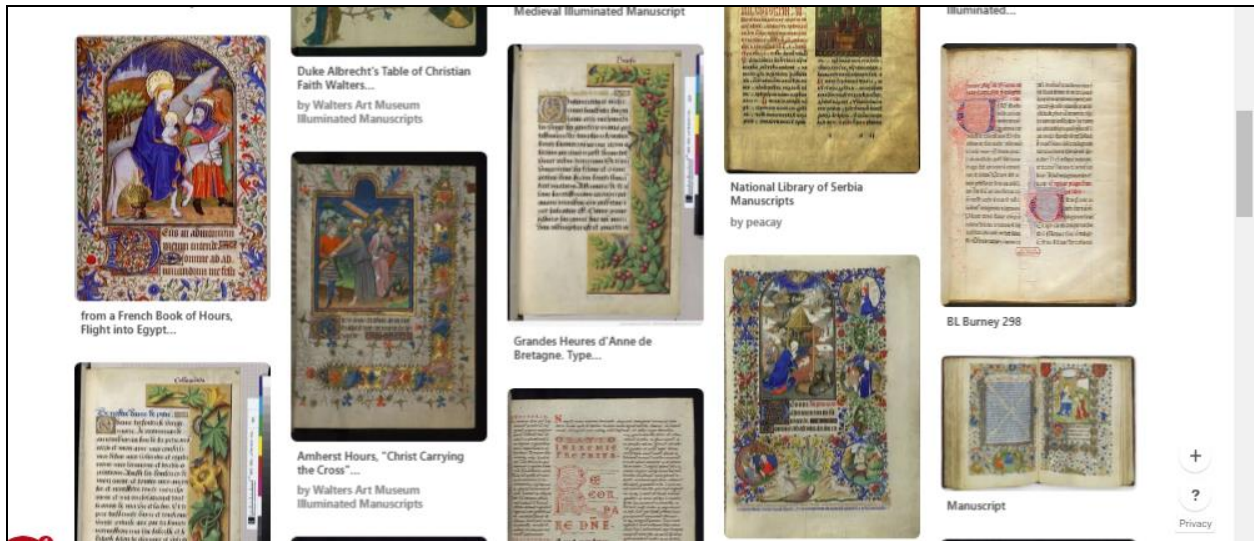
You can now check "Related Images" to see if there's anything similar that you like better. When you find the image you want, look below the name of the page. Here we can see it says... Uh, oh. Pinterest!



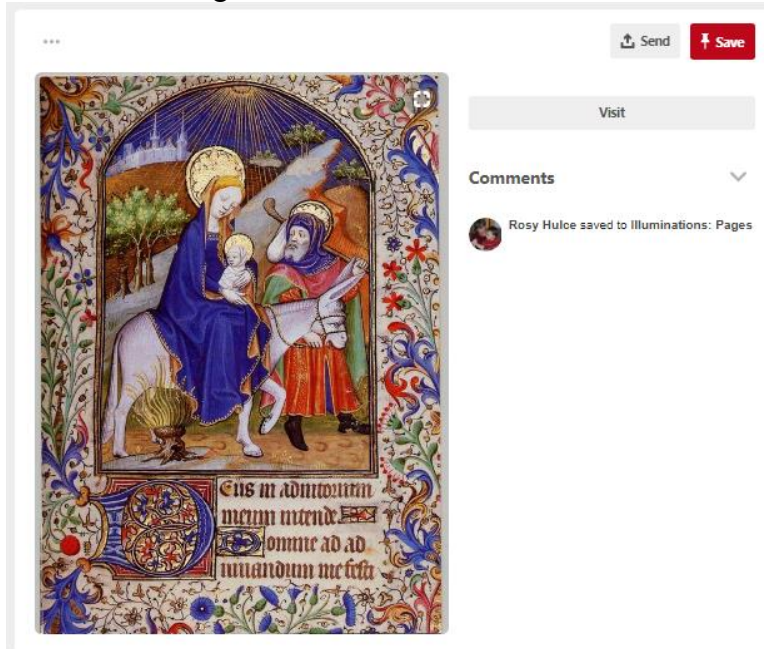
Argh! However, all is not lost! Let's dive into the bowels of Pinterest, shall we? Click the link for **Visit**, NOT **Save**. You need to explore the image to find its source, time period, etc.

We know that Pinterest is NOT a good source. Many of the images you find there will be SCA scrolls. DON'T USE THESE. They might be fine, based on good research, but they might be somebody's fantasy mishmosh, and either way they constitute tertiary sources with no documentation. You need to keep digging!

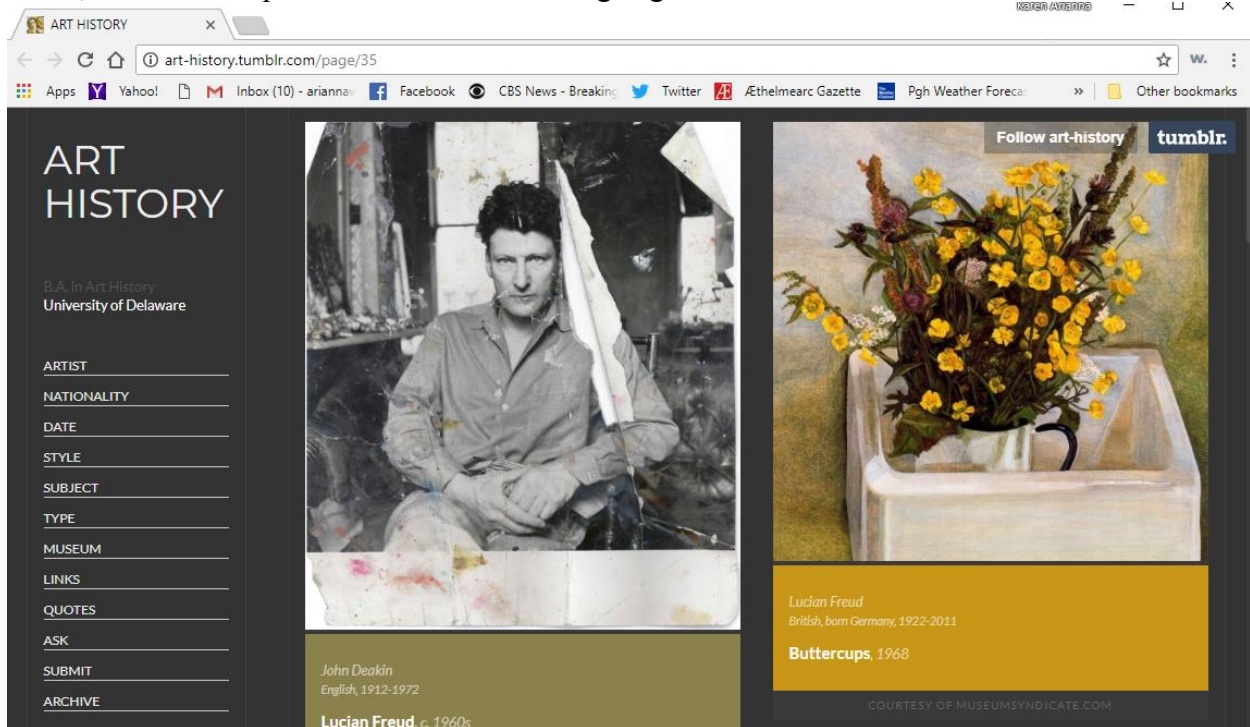
And here we are, on someone's lovely Pinterest page. She's been kind enough to label her images with their actual sources, yay!



But we can't just take her word for it. After scrolling down to find the image we want, we click it to see if we can get to the source.



Hmm, not much help here. Let's click the image again.

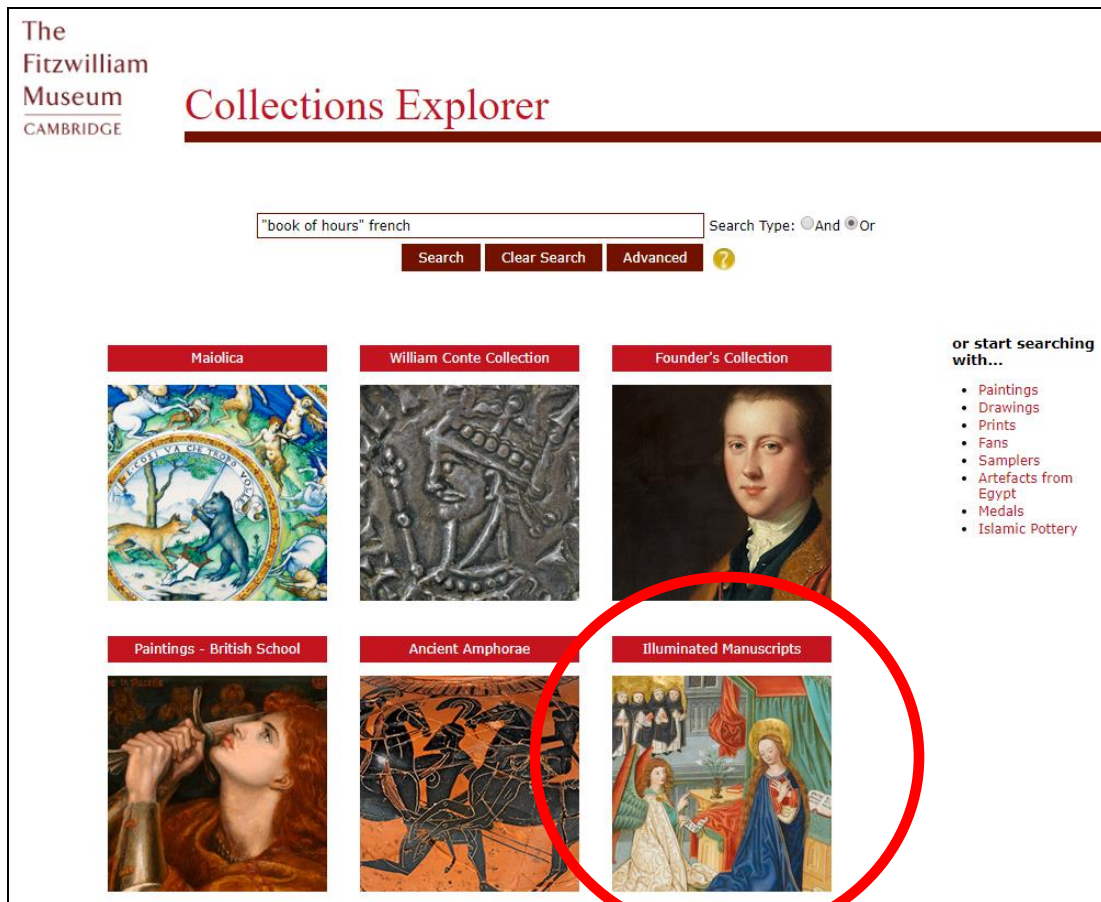


A website for a University! This looks promising. After a little filtering on renaissance art and images of the Virgin Mary, we scroll down to find our page – and it includes attribution to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, England! Bingo!




from a French Book of Hours, Flight into Egypt, 15th century.
Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

Ideally, however, we're not done yet. Let's Google the Fitzwilliam Museum and search their website. It took a little clicking around, but finally under their Collections Explorer, we hit gold – Illuminated Manuscripts!



Clicking that link brings us to a page with links to *lots* of illuminated manuscripts. Which one contains the page we liked? Honestly, do we care? Because this is such a treasure trove, it's time to just bookmark the whole collection!

Category:illuminated* Search Type: And Or
 

Objects found: 285 | Page 1 of 12 | Records/Page: 25 | View: Images Only Images + Text
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ...12 next last

Refine your results by:

- Objects with Images (285)
- Object Category (3)
- Object Name (45)
- Maker|Creator (50)
- Production Place (50)
- Material (13)
- Technique (7)
- Department (1)



Illuminated Manuscript / Book Of Hours
Hours
illumination, penwork
MSSPB, MS 150



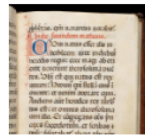
Illuminated Manuscript / Book Of Hours
Hours
Attavanti, Vante di Gabriello di Vante
illumination, penwork
MSSPB, MS 154

[Details](#)

[Details](#)



Illuminated Manuscript / Bible (part: New Testament And Sapiential Books)
Bible (part: New Testament and Sapiential Books)
illumination, egg tempura
MSSPB, MS 1059-1975



Illuminated Manuscript / Cistercian Use
Gospel Lectionary
illumination, penwork
MSSPB, MS 8

[Details](#)

[Details](#)



Illuminated Manuscript / Book Of Hours
Hours
Rapicano, Cola
illumination, penwork
MSSPB, MS McClean 71



Illuminated Manuscript / Book Of Hours
Hours
illumination, penwork
MSSPB, MS McClean 73

But as it happens, we can use the options under **Refine your results by** to filter the search to just French manuscripts and hopefully find the actual source for the image. However, sometimes we *won't* find it, maybe because the image has been removed since it was posted to that Pinterest page, which appears to be the case for this lovely page.

Why is it so important to get to the original source? The word you want is **Provenance**.

This is a list of who had possession of the manuscript from the time it was (purportedly) created until now. Good sources have a complete provenance with no gaps, so we know they aren't fakes.

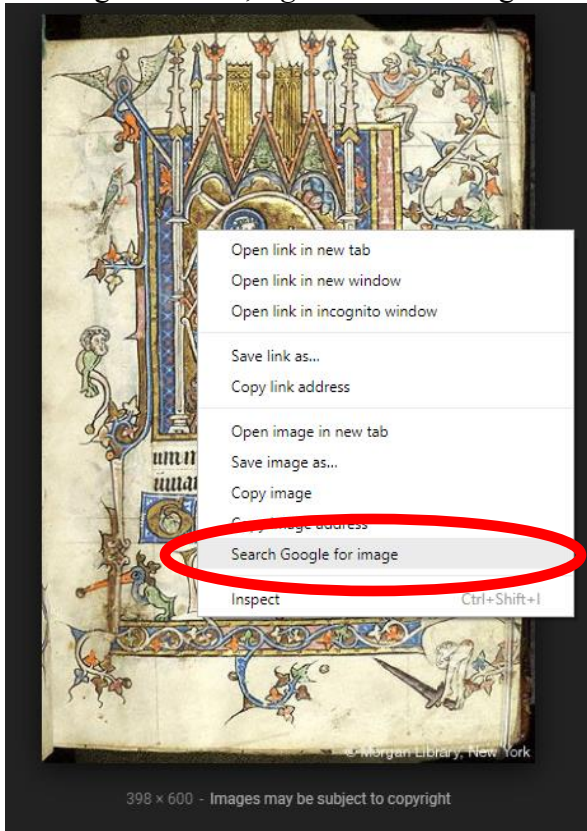
If you never get to a source that lists the manuscript's time, place, and provenance, you *cannot* rely on it to be an actual period document.

Reverse Image Searching

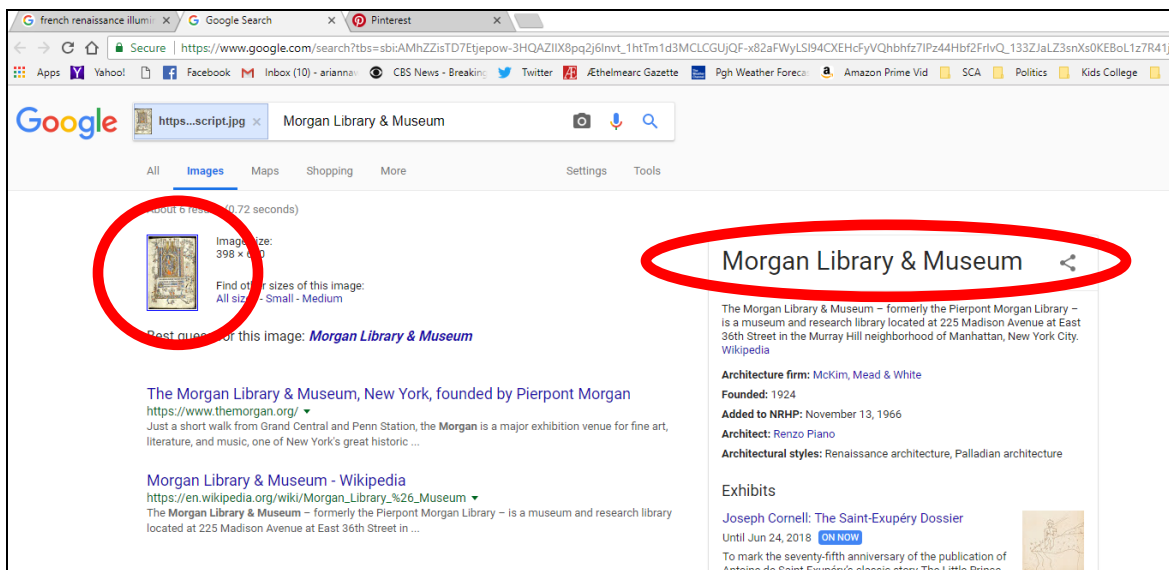
If Pinterest is stubbornly taking you around in circles, here's a way to break out of Pinterest Hell – reverse image search.

Reverse image searching lets you tell the internet “Go find me other web pages with images that look like this one.” There are several ways to perform a reverse image search.

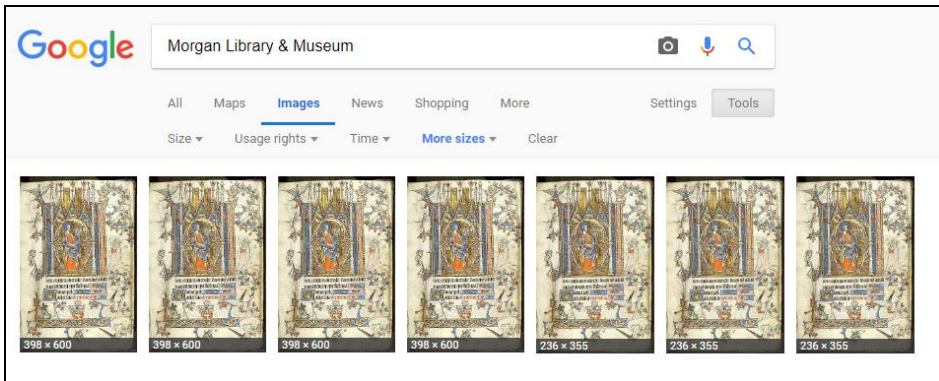
1. In Google Chrome, *right*-click the image and select **Search Google for image**.



2. Ta-da! It shows us that the original of this image probably came from the Morgan Library.



3. But that's not enough. We need to verify the actual manuscript. Click the thumbnail of the picture.



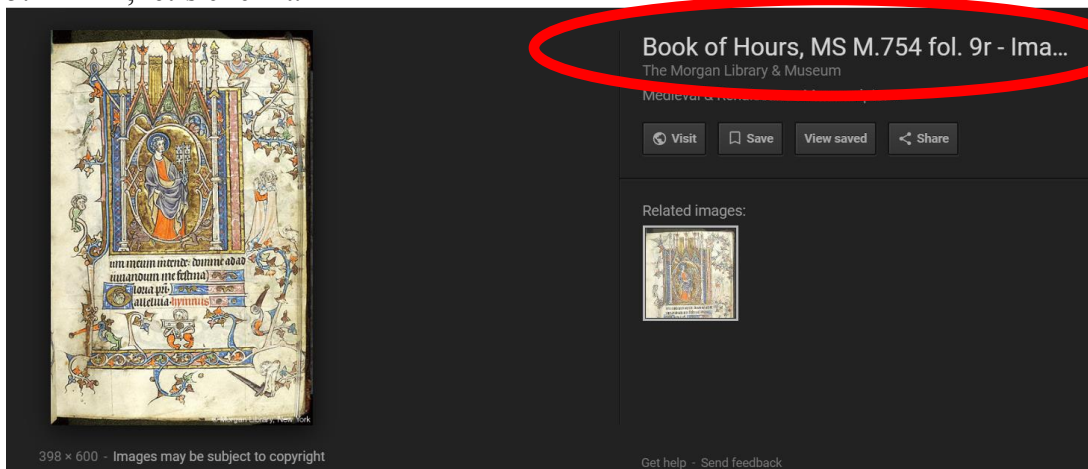
4. Now we're in a funhouse of multiple copies of the same image. As you hover your cursor over each copy of the image, a hint as to its origin displays. For example, with the cursor over the image on the far right, we can see that this one is stored at... Pinterest. OK, we know to skip that one!



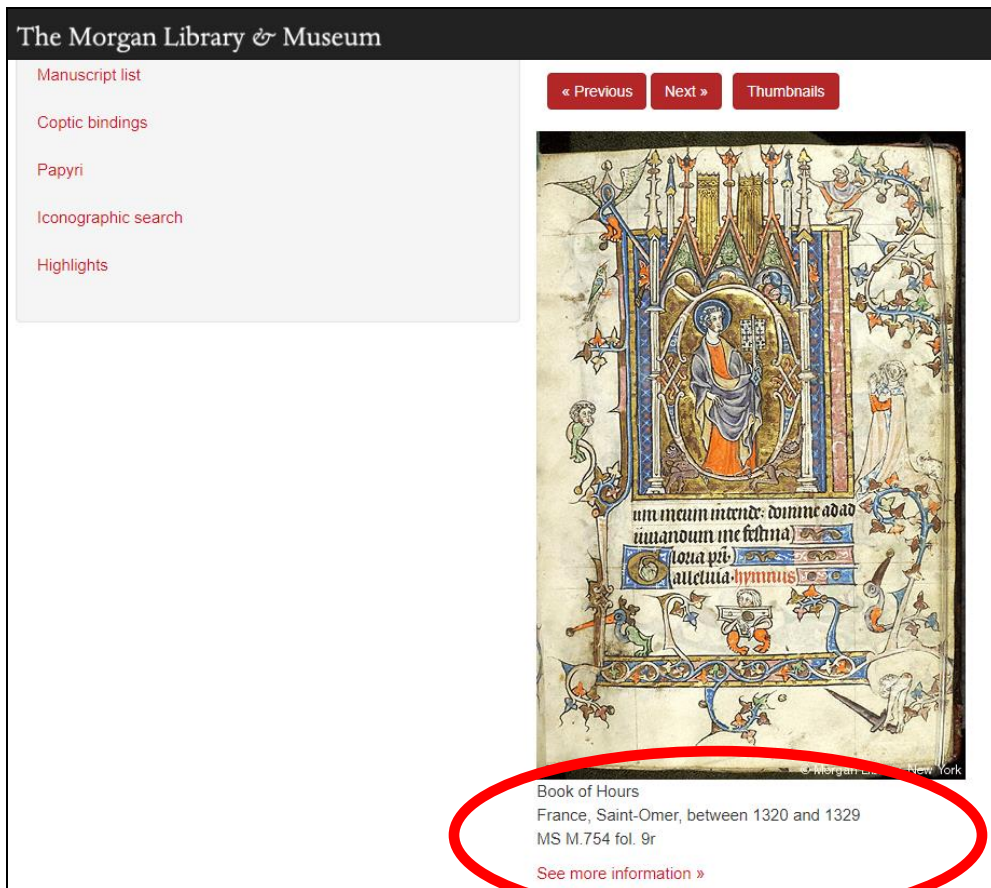
As it happens, ALL of them are from Pinterest... except this one:



5. Hmm, let's click it.



6. Aha! The Morgan Library! So we click **Visit**, and... woohoo, the real thing!



7. Clicking the **See more information** link gets us tons of information about this manuscript, including a detailed description and the manuscript's Provenance!

***Title:** [Book of hours fragment with a life of St. Margaret \(MS M.754\)](#).
***Published/Created:** Saint-Omer, France, between 1320 and 1329.
Description: 137 leaves (1 column, 17 lines), bound : vellum, ill. ; 156 x 110 mm

Notes: Ms. book of hours fragment, use of Saint-Omer and the Hospitallers (or perhaps use of Theŀrouanne), with a life of St. Margaret in rhymed French; written and illuminated in Saint-Omer or Theŀrouanne, France, circa 1320s. Texts: book of hours fragment (fol. 1-114); life of St. Margaret (fol. 114-132v). The last 5 folios (133-137), probably added in the 16th century, contain a Memorial of St. Gregory and an ex libris of Charles Denoues. The first part of this manuscript (155 leaves) is in the British Library (MS Add. 36684).
 Artist: Alison Stones has called this artist the Master of Morgan Ms M. 754 / Add. 36684.
 Decoration: 3 miniatures; 26 historiated initials; numerous historiated borders with grotesques.
 A terminus post quem of 1318 exists on fol. 78 in the London part of the manuscript.
 The manuscript was written for a woman depicted in the margins of the folios having large historiated initials and on fol. 113v prefacing the Life of St. Margaret. We shall refer to her as patroness although her husband, depicted on folios 17v, 59v and 71v, could have commissioned the manuscript for her.
 Revised: 2015

Binding: 16th-century French brown calf, gilt, with double fleurs-de-lis design in corners.

Partial list of exhibitions:

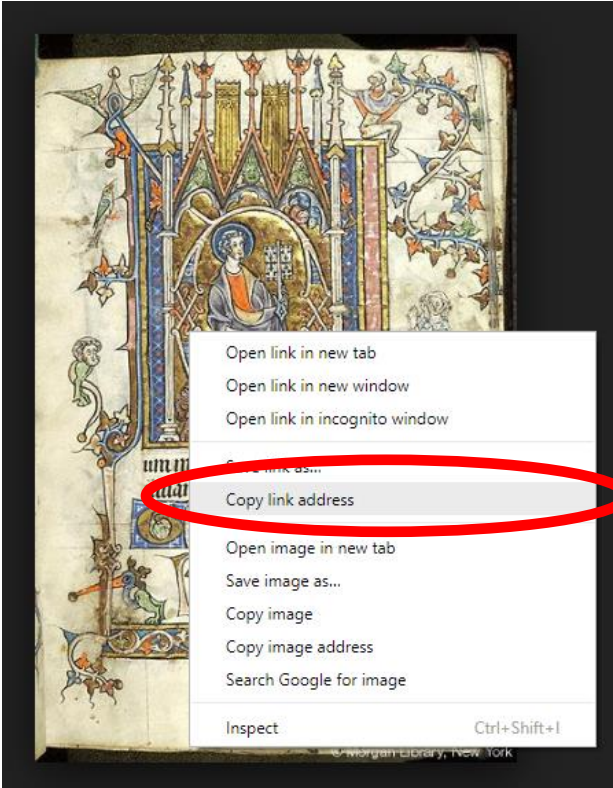
#	Full Title	Dates
[1]	<u>Medieval bestseller [exhibition] Pierpont Morgan Library, Sept. 17, 1997-Jan. 4, 1998.</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>

Provenance: Executed for a woman; Mme. Theŀophile Belin, Paris; Maggs (catalogue 500, 1928, no. 35, frontispiece illustration); purchased by J. P. Morgan (1867-1943) from James Drake, New York, in 1929.

We did it! We found the actual period manuscript from which this image came, and all of the information about it! Exhausting, wasn't it?

If you don't have Google Chrome, you can still do a reverse image search

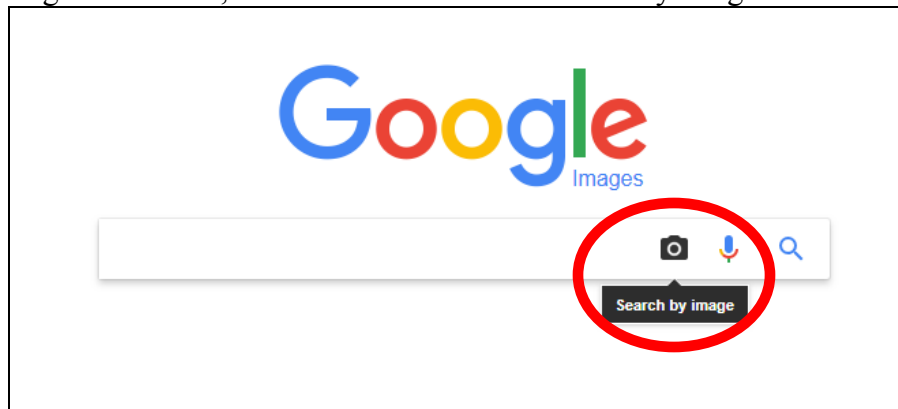
1. *Right-click* the image and select **Copy link address**.



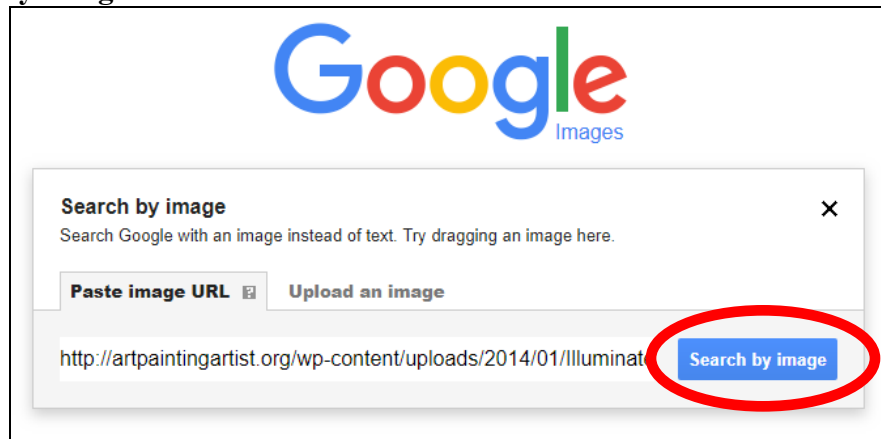
2. Go to Google.com and, in the upper-right corner, select **Images**.



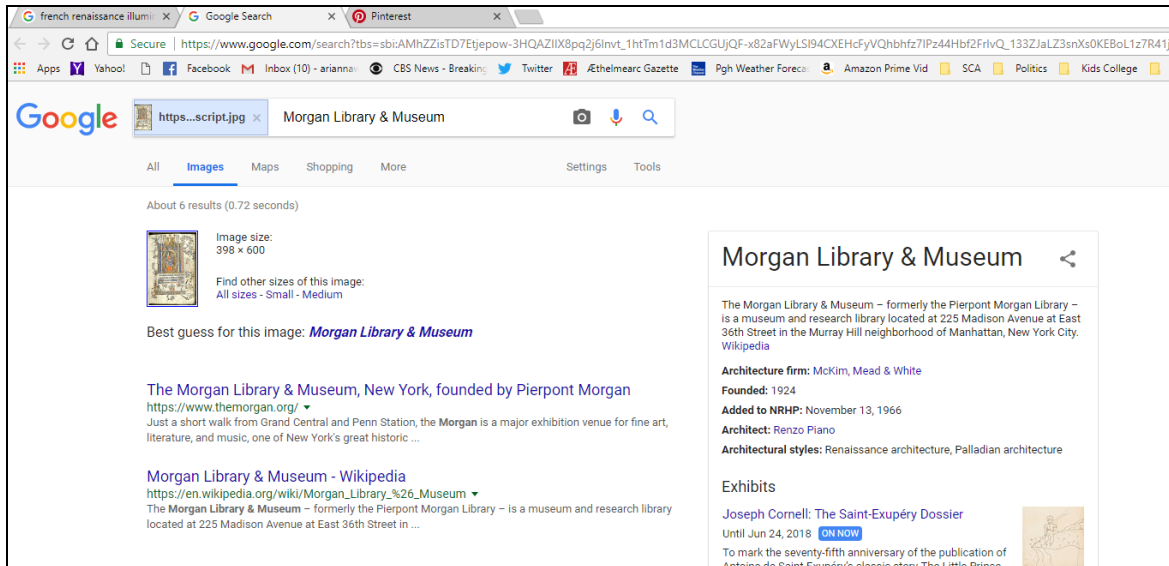
3. In the Google search bar, click the camera icon to search by image.



4. Press **Ctrl-V** to paste the image's address into the **Paste Image URL** field and click **Search by Image**.



5. This gets us to the same place as step 2 in the search using Google Chrome as discussed above. This is why you should probably just use Chrome.



Note: there are other websites that perform reverse image searches using the address of the image, like www.tineye.com. Use whichever one you like.

A Better Way

Instead of searching random stuff on the web, a better bet is to use sites with lots of manuscripts that you know are legitimate, like libraries and museums. Then, bookmark them! Here are a few:

- **British Library:** <http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/>
- **French National Library:** http://www.bnf.fr/en/bnf/dpt_mss_eng.html
- **Bodleian Library:** <https://tinyurl.com/jz7upwc>
- **Walters Museum:** <http://manuscripts.thewalters.org/>
- **Huntingdon Library at UC Berkeley:**
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/digitalscriptorium/huntington/search.html>
- **Getty Library free downloadable books on illumination:** <https://tinyurl.com/zgukg56>
- **Vatican Library:** <http://digi.vatlib.it/?ling=en>
- **University of Pennsylvania:** <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/medren/index.html>
- **Japanese Scrolls from the 12th - 16th century at Harvard Law School:**
<https://tinyurl.com/zzunz22>

There are also sites that aggregate links to other manuscript sites. You should bookmark them!

- **Digitized Medieval Manuscripts App (DMMAPP):**
<http://digitizedmedievalmanuscripts.org/app/>

- **The Monastic Manuscript Project:** <http://www.earlymedievalmonasticism.org/listoflinks.html#Digital>
- **The Virtual Library of Medieval Manuscripts:** <http://bvmm.irht.cnrs.fr/>

Find manuscripts that are famous, unusual, or just catch your fancy, and bookmark them!

- **Book of Kells:** http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=MS58_003v
- **Luttrell Psalter:** http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_42130
- **Bedford Hours:** http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_18850
- **Tres Riches Heures:** http://www.wga.hu/html_m/l/limbourg/
- **Gorleston Psalter:** http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_49622
- **Macclesfield Psalter:** <http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/macclesfield/gallery/>
- **Mira Calligraphiae Monumenta:** <https://tinyurl.com/jm83ugd>
- **Shahnameh (11th c. Persian poem):**
<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/shahnameh/index.html>
- **Hours of Catherine of Cleves:** <http://www.themorgan.org/collection/Hours-of-Catherine-of-Cleves/thumbs>

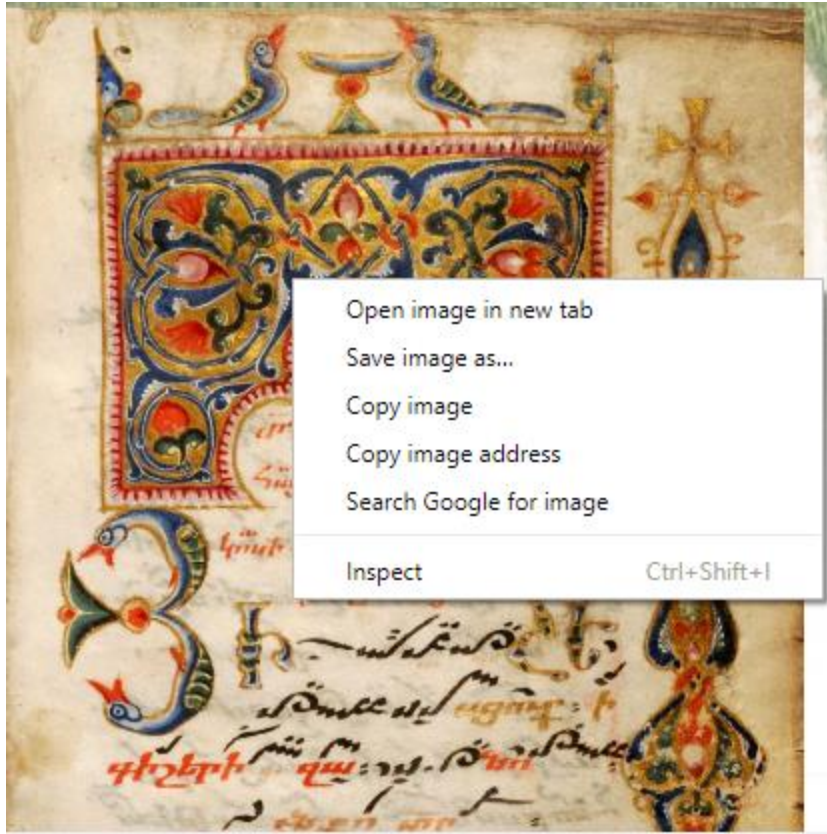
Keep in mind that the location of a museum or library is not necessarily related to the place of origin of the books in its collection; e.g. the Welsh National Library has mostly French & English mss., while the British Library has an extensive collection of Hebrew manuscripts.

Some cultures just didn't have their own distinctive styles. The Scots and Welsh mostly borrowed from England, while Belgium borrowed from France. Some cultures didn't create a lot of manuscripts at all - we don't have much from the Scandinavian countries, for instance, so for someone with a Viking persona you probably want to look for something Anglo-Saxon instead.

Using the image you just found

Now that you've got a good source, how to use it? Save the images so you can access them offline later. You may want to print them out, in color if possible, to have on hand while painting your scroll (though if you have a tablet, accessing them directly online works, too).

If the image is just a single page with no zoom options, you can use your trusty *right-click* to invoke the menu and then either select **Save image as** and give it a name and location where you want to save it, or choose **Copy image** and then paste it into a Word document. When there are multiple pages of a manuscript that I like, I prefer the latter, since I can then have a single document with all of the images from a single manuscript.



When I'm on a page with zoom features, I prefer to zoom into the parts I want and then take screenshots. The **[Prt Scrn]** button works for that, but for better control, on a PC I prefer the Snipping Tool.

- Access the "Snipping Tool" under All Programs > Accessories to take screenshots.
- Zoom in for closeups of the detailed areas before taking your screenshots.
- Paste them into a Word document.
- Type the URL and a description of each ms. into the Word doc for later reference, so you know where you got them.
- If you want to be able to trace an image onto your scroll paper, use Word's "Format Picture" feature to change your image to black and white. If necessary, fiddle with the Brightness and Contrast to make the image easier to see. Resize the image to the size you need, print it, and trace.



Bookmark and, if possible, download any facsimiles recommended to you that you think might be useful or interesting. Create folders on your hard drive for the Word docs you created - you can re-use images for multiple scrolls.

Facebook groups

Lots of people from all over the SCA are on various scribal Facebook groups, posting photos of their work, links to manuscripts, questions, and advice. People who are especially good sources of info on these sites who I know pretty well include: Master Giles from Lochac, aka Mark Calderwood; Master Ranthulfr from the Middle, aka Randy Asplund, Lord Ian TheGreen from the Middle, Mistress Tetchubah from Caid, aka Carolyn Richardson, and Mistress Katarina Helene from the Middle, aka Helen Schultz. Folks on these groups are generally kind, helpful, and will not critique a scroll posted on the group unless the poster explicitly asks for it.

- **SCA Scribes:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/17176888696/>
- **SCA Scribes and Illumination:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scascribesandillumination/>
- **AEthelmearc Scribes:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/856443857757993/>
- **SCA Scroll Gallery:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/331906713606125/>