

## **Redaction: A recipe for scrolls**

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We'll look at illuminations in two ways; What are the design elements & colors that make up a particular style? How can you use part of an illumination to create a scroll?

Once you know what the design elements & common colors used in a particular style of illumination, you can create original work without having to use an exemplar.

What to look for:

- Are the design elements and layout organic or geometric?
- What sort of design elements do you see?
- Is there gold work?
- What are the paint colors?
- What other elements do you see that help "define a style"?
- Date range
- Location(s)
- Capitals Style
- Scripts/Calligraphy
- Pigments used
- Quintessential Example

Styles:

- Celtic Knotwork
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- French Gold Vine
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Italian White Vine
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Squashed Bug

Another way to 'redact scrolls' is to use part of an exemplar. What this means is that instead of copying an entire illumination, you use a section of it. This can be part of the border, an illuminated capital, or some detail that would work well on its own. If you want to work on a new technique or overall style, picking a small part of a larger, more complicated work is a great way to learn.

#### Glossary of Terms:

- Design Elements - these are the parts (color, shapes, lines) that create the work
- Exemplar - The original illumination that a copy is made from
- Whitework - a decorative element of fine detail lines or dots usually using white paint on an area already painted with another color
- Knotwork - a geometric pattern of interlacing lines
- Organic - taken from nature, fluid lines and shapes
- Geometric - use of regular shapes such as rectangles, circles, triangles and lines
- Decorated Capitals - "An [INITIAL](#) composed of non-figural, non-zoomorphic decorative elements." British Library Glossary
- Historiated Capitals - "A letter containing an identifiable scene or figures, sometimes relating to the text." British Library Glossary
- Inhabited Initial - "An enlarged letter at the beginning of a chapter, paragraph, or important section of a text that contains human or animal figures but not an identifiable narrative scene" British Library Glossary
- Trompe l'oeil - "A French expression meaning 'deceives the eye', trompe l'oeil describes painting in which things are made to appear to be resting on or projecting from the surface of the picture." British Library Glossary
- Drollery (sometimes Grotesques) - "An amusing figure, often of a [GROTESQUE](#) character. Drolleries appear throughout the history of book [ILLUMINATION](#), from [INSULAR](#) works such as the Book of Kells to late medieval manuscripts such as the [PRAYER BOOK](#) of Charles the Bold, but they were particularly popular from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century." British Library Glossary
- Marginalia - "The Latin word for 'things in the margin', marginalia refers to writing or decoration in the margins of a manuscript. Such features can form part of the original program of work, but they also can be of a secondary or even extraneous nature. Marginalia include [GLOSSSES](#), annotations, and diagrams. Fully developed [BORDER](#) decoration, especially that of the fifteenth century, is considered a separate genre or component of the decorative scheme." British Library Glossary

British Library Glossary: <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/glossary.asp>