

# Basic Illumination Supplies 101

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In this class students will learn basic techniques, differences in paint types, as well as how different papers react to different paints.

## List of Supplies

### Papers:

140 lb Hot Press Watercolor Paper

Handmade Papers

Parchmentine

### Brushes: (natural bristles are best)

Liners

Loew-Cornell

Chisles

Other Brands

Tight Spots

Angular

### Technical Pens:

Micron – disposable

Faber-Castell

Rapidograph

### Paints:

Gouaches

Windsor & Newton or M.Graham & Co.

Watercolors

“Period” Hand Ground Pigments

Windsor & Newton Metallic Inks (Gold and Silver)

Gesso

Gold & Silver leaf

Paint Palette

Palette Knife

Ruler (metal is best)

Pencil

Kneaded eraser

Soft Brush (for wiping surface)

X-acto Knife & Cutting Matt

Compass, Protractor, Template

Rinse water container (Empty Yogurt Container)

Paper Towels

Inexpensive Portfolio Case

“Brag Book” with Photocopies (not photos) of work

Illumination book(s)

## **Suggested Illumination Books**

If you can only afford one book at a time, I suggest you start at the top of this list and work your way down. If you can only afford a few books, I highly recommend the top three listed.

A History of Illuminated Manuscripts  
Christopher De Hamel  
Published by: Phaidon Press Limited  
ISBN # 0-7148-3452-1

This is the book I most use for border and miniatures. It is a very good all around book, and I recommend that it be the first one you purchase.

Calligraphy & Illumination  
A History & Practical Guide  
Patricia Lovett  
Published by: Harry N, Abrams, Inc.  
ISBN # 0-8109-4119-8

This one is superb for both calligraphers and illuminators! It has step by step instructions for everything, including gold leafing. I recommend this be the second book you purchase.

Medieval Illuminators and Their Methods of Work  
Jonathan J.G. Alexander  
Published by: Yale University Press  
ISBN # 0-300-06073-4 or 0-300-05689-3

This is another good all around book.

Celtic Design  
A Beginner's Manual  
Aidan Meehan  
Published by: Thames and Hudson  
ISBN # 0-500-27629-3

I recommend this book for those of you who wish to illuminate in the early period Celtic Knotwork. This is a very informative book on Celtic Design. Meehan takes you through the basics of Celtic Design in this book. He has a series of Celtic Design books available on the market today they are all wonderful.

Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Painting  
Carl Nordenfalk  
Published by: George Braziller, Inc.  
ISBN # 0-8076-0826-2

This is another good one for early period Celtic designs.

The *Tres Riches Heures* of Jean, Duke of Berry  
Musee Conde, Chantilly  
Published by: George Braziller, Inc.  
ISBN # 0-8076-1220-0

This one is my absolute favorite specific manuscript book! I recommend that if you want to purchase a specific manuscript book, you purchase this one first. The manuscript was done in the 1400s. It's excellent for anything from Peerage scrolls to AoAs.

The Visconti Hours  
Millard Meiss and Edith W. Kirsch  
Published by: George Brazillier, Inc.  
ISBN # 0-8076-0651-0

This was also done in the 1400s. This book is great for borders.

The Hours of Henry VIII  
A Renaissance Masterpiece by Jean Poyet  
Roger S. Wieck, William M. Voelkle, and K. Michelle Hearne  
Published by: George Braziller, Inc.  
ISBN # 0-8076-1477-7

This manuscript is one I have just come across. It was originally done in the early 1500s (and Henry VIII was not it's commissioner, that is unknown). It's good for later period work, for any scrolls from AoAs to Peerages.

There are, of course, other books on the market today that may be just as good, if not better than, the ones I have listed. These will get you started. A good place to look for illumination books is in the discount section of the bookstore (Barnes & Nobel especially). Also look for religious (Christian) icon books, they sometimes have the best photos of manuscript artwork.

If you have any questions, comments, or have found a technique or really great book, please feel free to email me at [susan@rocinante.com](mailto:susan@rocinante.com) .