

On book illustration

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une version littéraire impeccable, il chargeait Madame Michel Roussier, archiviste-paléographe, de revoir les vers latins et français, qu'il tenait à présenter, en regard l'un de l'autre, dans une typographie admirablement adaptée tant au texte qu'à l'illustration.

Le succès de ces efforts est aujourd'hui consacré par la brillante parution de ces deux tomes où se trouve réuni, pour la plus grande satisfaction des bibliophiles, ce que l'auteur, l'artiste et l'éditeur ont pu réaliser de plus parfait dans leur commune recherche de l'idéal et de la beauté.

DAVID BLAND (LONDON)

ON BOOK ILLUSTRATION

Wir wissen zu wenig von den englischen privaten Büchersammlungen und von dem, was in Großbritannien Jahr für Jahr und in sorgsam gewahrter Unauffälligkeit auf bibliophilem Gebiet geschieht. So brachte erst vor kurzem der Verlag Faber & Faber in London zwei erstaunliche Werke auf den Markt, die man als die weitaus reichsten jüngeren Veröffentlichungen zur Geschichte der Buchillustration und der Buchmalerei bezeichnen darf. Das eine, «A History of Book Illustration» von David Bland, eröffnet zeitlich und räumlich weite Horizonte. Der Blick reicht von den ältesten Papyrusillustrationen Ägyptens bis zum russischen Kinder-Bilderbuch des Jahres 1956, und die Welt des Islam, Chinas und Japans wird mit derselben überlegenen Kenntnis einbezogen wie die europäische. Bland versteht sich auf technische wie auf kulturhistorische und künstlerische Werte; mit sicherem Gefühl greift er aus der Unmenge der Erscheinungen die stellvertretenden großen Beispiele heraus, und seine ausgewählte internationale Bibliographie

wird jedem, der einer erweiterten Einführung bedarf, höchst willkommen sein. – Das andere Buch David Diringers «The Illuminated Book», ebenfalls das Werk überlegener Kennerschaft, ist eine Geschichte der mannigfachen Beziehungen zwischen Buch und Buchmalerei von den Zeiten ihres Aufblühens in den Trümmern der antiken Welt bis zu ihrem Goldenen Zeitalter in den drei Jahrhunderten vor den ersten Siegen der Buchdruckerkunst. Einzigartig ist das zum Teil äußerst seltene Anschauungsmaterial, womit beide Werke den Leser beschenken: mit ihren insgesamt über tausend Einzelbildern (ergänzt durch einige farbige Tafeln) sind sie ein corpus imaginum von unerschöpflicher Aussagekraft. Die nachfolgenden Ausschnitte aus Blands Vorwort, die beiden Textillustrationen aus seinem Buch und die Bildproben auf S. 9 ff. mögen dem Bücherfreund einen ersten, notdürftigen Begriff von der Fülle der von den beiden Verfassern in jahrelanger Arbeit zusammengebrachten Funde geben.

‘And you who wish to represent by words the form of man and all the aspects of his membrification, relinquish that idea. For the more minutely you describe the more you will confine the mind of the reader, and the more you will keep him from the knowledge of the thing described. And so it is necessary to draw *and* to describe.’

Could there be a better justification for the illustrated book than this of Leonardo's? If it be agreed that he was thinking of

scientific, rather than imaginative, illustration, it can easily be shown that there was no distinction in his day. The text-books like *De Re Militari* which deals with the art of siege were as imaginatively illustrated as the *Poliphilo*.

Drawing and writing have in fact developed simultaneously from a common origin. Even today we can use the word ‘illustration’ indiscriminately of a graphic or of a verbal description. Each began as a



Forain: Titelbild zu «Croquis parisiens» von Huysmans, 1880

means of communication and by degrees alphabets were built up of certain images. The process may be studied in the palaeolithic picture where the artist, wishing to show a herd of reindeer would draw only the first and last animals, indicating the rest by a few lines. So stylization came and with it the ideogram.

In a sense then all art is illustrative and in that sense illustration preceded literature. The earliest illustration was simply aimed to reach those who could not read, and this function continued right down to the fifteenth-century days of the printed block books. But here a distinction must be made between illustration and decoration, for while illustration came first it was followed, as soon as literacy developed, by its abstract counterpart, decoration. Throughout the Middle Ages, when manuscripts were

written and illuminated for the learned or the rich, decoration was paramount. The fact that so many of these works were philosophical and did not lend themselves to illustration also had its effect. But even in the Middle Ages there were periods when the classical tradition was strong and when illustration assumed more importance than decoration—as for instance in the *Utrecht Psalter*. After the introduction of printing too there are strongly decorative periods; and so it goes on, first one stress and then the other.

In the medieval mind however it may be doubted whether there was any distinction between the two. The symbol, which is of such vast importance in the art of the Middle Ages and which persisted in the emblem books until quite recently, partakes of both illustration and decoration. It might be said that in those days they saw everything as an illustration but the result to us is



Illustration von Lundqvist zu «Mörk Sång» von Jonsson, 1949

usually decorative, almost abstract. Later on, in the early printed books the cuts seem to have been used partly as a sign-post to the contents. It is not until much later that we begin to find such definitions as Goethe's 'The artist must think out to the end the poet's ideas' which carry us much farther than Leonardo's into the realm of imaginative illustration. This type, of course, had long been practised and probably defined in early China but with the Romantic Revival it became self-conscious and articulate in the West. So we come down to the present day and such dicta as that of Lynton Lamb, himself a book-artist: 'Illustrations can only be justified if they add to a book something that literature cannot encompass' . . .

If it be agreed that the illuminated manuscript and the illustrated printed book have almost everything in common it must then be admitted that the illustration of both, especially the miniatures of the later manuscripts, should be considered within the framework of the history of painting. Not that painters with a few exceptions have much concerned themselves with books until fairly recently. They

have usually rather looked down on illustration and in certain quarters the word has come to have a slightly contemptuous connotation. It is of course an 'impure' art, mixing literature with painting—but no more impure than opera which mixes literature with music. It has borrowed much from the other arts and crafts in every period of its history, from architecture (seventeenth-century title pages), from flower-culture (late Flemish illumination) and from the art of the goldsmith which inspired the early copper-engravers. But generally of course it has followed the broad development of painting, with however a distinct time lag after the introduction of printing . . .

True illustration can never be anything more than a dependent art. But within its limitations what a delightful art it is. The illustrated book, said William Morris, 'is not perhaps absolutely necessary to man's life, but it gives us such endless pleasure and is so intimately connected with the other absolutely necessary art of imaginative literature that it must remain one of the very worthiest things towards the production of which reasonable man should strive'.



BILDPROBEN AUS «A HISTORY OF BOOK ILLUSTRATION» (1958)
VON DAVID BLAND (B)

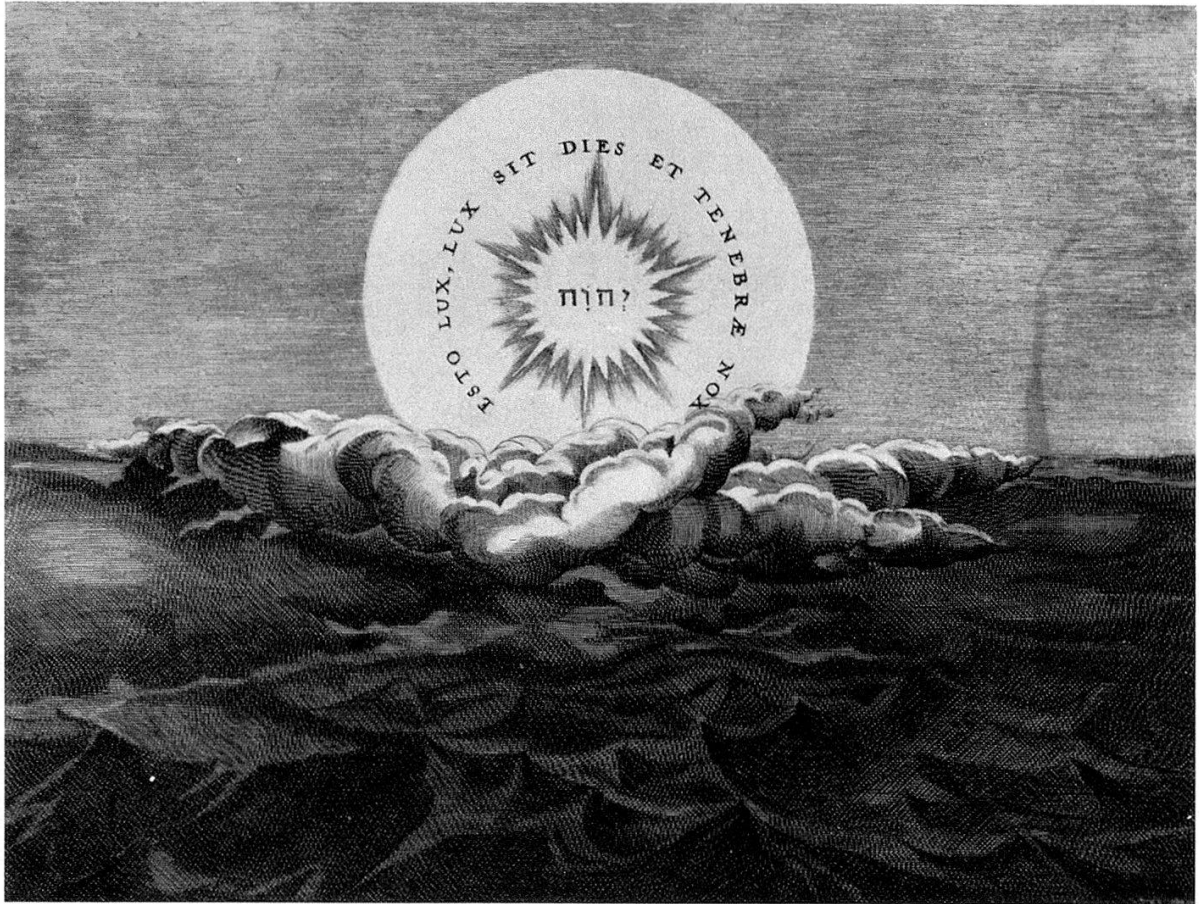
UND «THE ILLUMINATED BOOK, ITS HISTORY AND
PRODUCTION» (1958)
VON DAVID DIRINGER (D)



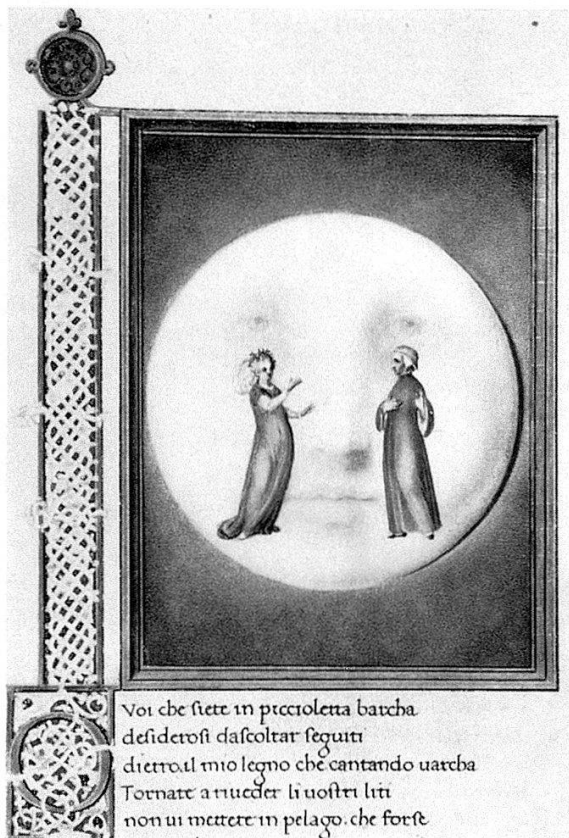
Ägyptischer Papyrus der 22. Dynastie: eine Tote betet den als Widder dargestellten Amun an (D)



*Roger von Parma: Traktat über die Chirurgie (12. Jh., französisch)
Oben Szenen aus Christi Leben, unten chirurgische Fälle (B)*



Cambridger Bibel von 1660: der erste Schöpfungstag
Stich von Visscher nach De Vos (B)



Dantes «Divina Commedia», ill. von Franco de' Russi
und G. Giraldi, Ferrara, ungefähr 1480 (B)



Symbolische Figur aus der Goldenen Bulle Karls IV.
Spanisch, 1400 (B)



Polospiel. Aus der Anthologie des Sultans Iskander, Zeit der Timuriden, 15. Jh. (D)



Manichäische Älteste. Manichäische Miniatur 8. oder 9. Jh. (D)



Illustration nach dem japanischen Maler Ki Chikudo in «Chikudo Gafu», 1815 (B)

13 AMERICANS WOUNDED

BOMB OUTRAGE IN SAIGON

EXPLOSIONS DURING ASIAN AID TALKS

HOTELS DAMAGED

SAIGON, Oct. 22—A series of explosions... Terrorist bombs wounded 13 Americans...

CASUALTIES IN BUS

Bomb burst in the Cholon Hotel... Casualties in bus...

COMMUNISTS ACCUSED BY WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The State Department said today that the series of bombings...

ECONOMIC DEBATE ON TUESDAY

COMMONS PROGRAMME REARRANGED FROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN FLAT

NICEE'S DISCOVERY Miss Harriet Victoria Randall, aged 66...

AMERICANS FIRE MISSILE

SUCCESSFUL TEST OF JUPITER

SUN PHOTOGRAPHED FROM 83,000 FT.

TURBULENT EDDIES SEEN

NEW YORK, Oct. 22—Officials of the United States Office of Naval Research announced today...

PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST PESSIMISM

NEW YORK, Oct. 22—President Eisenhower said today that he would speak in various parts of the country...

MR. GROMYKO BACKS U.N. INQUIRY

SYRIAN COMPLAINT OF TURKISH THREAT TO LIFE AND LIMBS OF OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

VIOLENT SPEECH

NEW YORK, Oct. 22—The General Assembly has begun consideration of Syria's complaint...

HAPPY COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Oct. 22—The Assembly adjourned, by 31 votes to 32 with 15 abstentions...

MR. MACMILLAN'S AIMS IN WASHINGTON

MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES TO HELP FREE WORLD

RUSSIAN TIMING

PREPARATIONS AT WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—Preparations for the President Eisenhower's visit to Washington...

IMAGINATIVE HELP

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The Crown had never shone so brightly as it shone today...

"CROWN HAS NEVER SHONE SO BRIGHTLY"

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The Crown had never shone so brightly as it shone today...

"OUR HEARTS ARE FULL OF MEMORIES"

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother...

POLICE WARNING TO DEVON FARMERS

DEVON POLICE yesterday warned farmers in the county who had bought five cows...

NEED FOR WEST TO POOL KNOWLEDGE

OTTAWA, Oct. 22—Mr. Diefenbaker said in Parliament today that while Mr. Macmillan was in Ottawa...

PRINCESS ROYAL

LONDON, Oct. 22—The Princess Royal had to cancel her visit to Sheffield on Friday, when she was to have unveiled a memorial to Bishop Hedley Burrows in Sheffield Cathedral...

THE QUEEN HOME IN SUNSHINE

PRINCESS ANNE JOINS IN WELCOME

DEALERS' IDENTITY

WAVE TO CROWD

On the plane, the party included Sir Frederick Hanley Page, Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex...

HONOUR FOR PILOT

Captain Gordon Store, the pilot who had flown the Queen to Ottawa...

HUNGARY UNDER ARMED GUARD

BUDAPEST, Oct. 22—Hungarian police said militia would be used to guard the city...

ANNIVERSARY DAY OF REVOLUTION

BUDAPEST, Oct. 22—Hungarian police said militia would be used to guard the city...

NEW CHAIRMAN OF G.E.C.

THE board of the General Electric Company Ltd. announced last night that a board meeting yesterday...

JAPAN HOLDS LEAD IN SHIPBUILDING

JAPAN, the world's leading shipbuilding country in 1956, launched vessels totalling 1,235,000 tons...

WALL STREETS' FALL

AFTER an early modest rally on the New York Stock Exchange today...

A DIPLOMATIC BAG RIDDLE

REPORTED THEFT BY RUSSIANS

VANISHED BOAT IN BOSPORUS

ATTACHE' EXPELLED

A recent visit to Turkey, Mr. Sablier continued, had given him an idea of what Mr. Khrushchev might be getting at...

ENVOY'S UNMILY

Senior Turkish authorities had not denied the disappearance of the bag which was believed to contain documents...

A FAIRTALE ACCOUNT

Mr. Sablier did not suppose that this story, even if true, gave any proof that the Russians were planning to invade Syria...

STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION

A picturesque element of mystery and intrigue is given to the forthcoming visit to Washington by Mr. Macmillan...

MR. KADAR'S WARNING

There has been a series of warnings by Mr. Kadar, the Hungarian premier...

FOUND MAKES FURTHER PROGRESS

THE pound made further progress against the new German mark in the foreign exchange yesterday...

LOAD OF NICKEL STOLEN

A heavy lorry with 15 tons of nickel plates valued at \$109,000 was stolen from a park in Commercial Road, Stoney, E.