

Uncatalogued Vulgate Manuscript

The photograph is from a handwritten Latin manuscript, c. AD 1250. It was thus written about 200 years before the moveable type printing press was invented. The Vulgate was *the* Bible from the early fifth century until the sixteenth century for virtually all of Christendom in Europe. Originally edited and translated by St. Jerome in the late fourth and early fifth century, the Vulgate became the Bible that was the base for Wycliffe's translation into English in the late 14th century, Gutenberg's Bible (the first full-length book to be produced on a printing press, c. 1454), and the Douay-Rheims Bible of the late 16th century. Its history as the reigning translation of the Bible is thus about four times *longer* than the reign of the King James.

The manuscript is privately owned, belonging to a collection in Dallas, Texas. The page of text from this uncatalogued Vulgate manuscript is from the book of Proverbs. Latin iconography reached its peak at about this time, resulting in many of the most beautiful handwritten manuscripts ever produced.

This photograph is numbered _____ of 500.