

THE GROLIER CLUB

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Vivat Rex! Exhibition Highlights

- *Incipiunt Hore Beate Marie Virginis secundum vsum Sarum*, a book of prayers and devotions inscribed by Elizabeth of York, queen consort of Henry VII and the mother of Henry VIII (cat. 8).
- Henry's schoolboy copy of Cicero, inscribed: "Thys Boke Is Myne Prynce Henry" (cat. 13).
- *Assertio septem sacramentorum adversus Martin. Lutherum. (The Defense of the Seven Sacraments against Martin Luther)* (1521), the book which earned Henry (and all future British monarchs) the title "Defender of the Faith" (cat. 57).
- The *Golden Gospels of Henry VIII*, a manuscript created between 977 and 993, believed to have been given to Henry by Pope Leo X in 1521, when he conferred upon him the title of "Defender of the Faith" (cat. 60).
- An autograph letter, partially in cipher, written by Peter Vannes, Henry's special ambassador to the pope over the matter of his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, discussing his lack of progress, the pope's emotional outburst, and the possibility of bribing papal officials (cat. 70).
- A remarkable autograph letter signed from Catherine of Aragon to her nephew, Emperor Charles V (1531), complaining of the "abominable litigation between the King my Lord and myself" and asserting that she "remained a maid and was a maid . . . when [she] came unto the King" (cat. 71).
- Two copies of a Book of Hours, printed in 1534 in Paris for the English market, *Hor[a]e Beatissime virginis marie ad legitimum Sarisburiensis Ecclesie ritum cum quindecim orationibus beate Brigitte*. The first copy was defaced by an early reformist owner; the second copy, owned by someone of a more traditional religious persuasion, has a number of initials and images that have been crudely gilded (cat. 92).
- New Year's Gift Roll, January 1, 1539, a manuscript list of New Year's gifts given and received by the sovereign, a record of opulence in the royal court (cat. 51).
- A magnificent illuminated prayer book with a touching inscription to Henry from his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves (cat. 119).