

# THE RAVEN KING AND HIS LIBRARY

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King Matthias I of Hungary was born in Hunyadi Castle in 1443.

He was also known as Matthias Corvinus "The Raven King" after the raven that adorned his coat of arms.

He spent much of his life fighting the Hapsburgs.

He acceded to the throne in 1448. He is illustrated here in portraits and busts.



Illuminated letters based on books in the Library. Shown at 90%



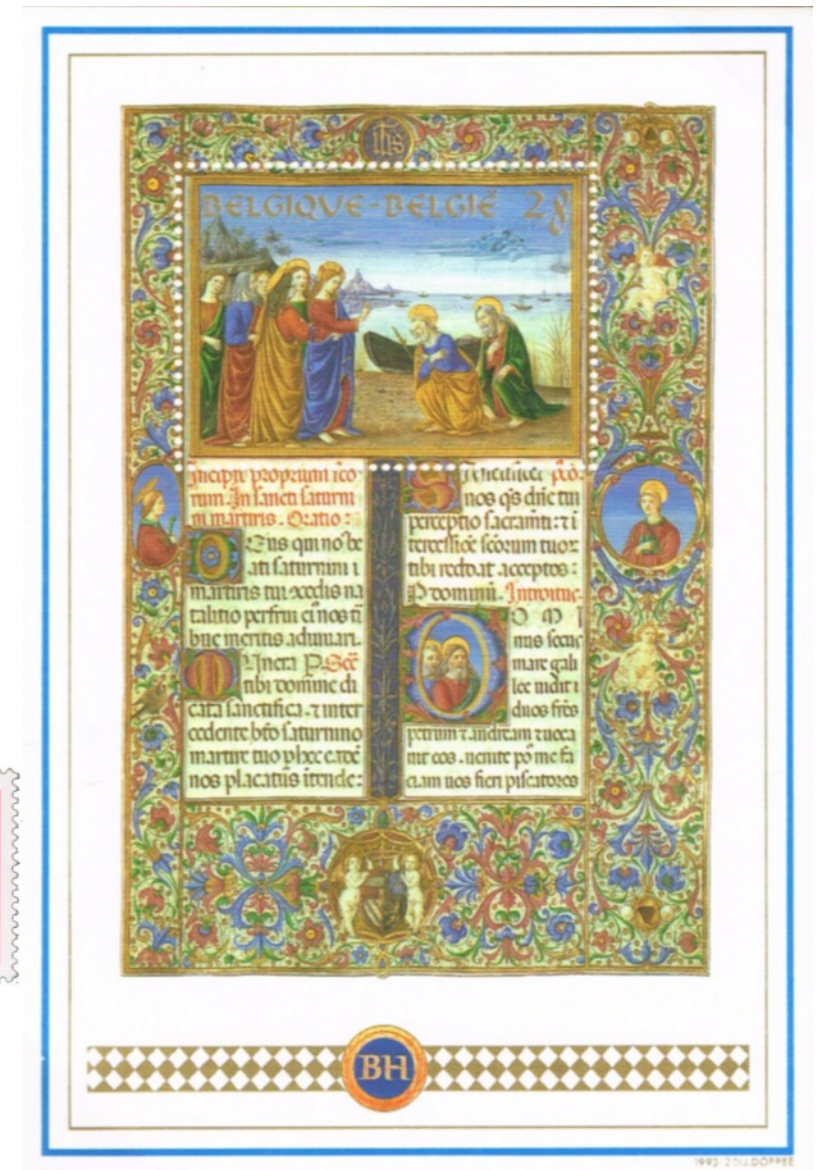
1487 Breviary now in the Vatican Library



Graduale now in the Hungarian National Library



Above and right: Missale Romanum 1485. Now in the Royal Library of Belgium.



But he was also a patron of the arts, who in the last five years of his life assembled a library which aimed to collect all the knowledge of the ancient world. It is thought to have contained around 6,000 works.

After his death in 1490 his library started to be dispersed. Today only 216 volumes are known to have survived.

## Reference

Tanner, Marcus (2008) *The Raven King: Matthias Corvinus and the fate of his lost library*

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