

Class: French Batarde Script 1450-1499

This script comes from a Book of Hours I handle in June 2013. I have used a personally adapted script from this book since that time. However, in the interest of historical authenticity I am teaching this script so that we can make letters that look like the letters and writing in the book.

One of my favorite “manuscript search engines” is:

<https://digital-scriptorium.org/>

You can use it to find basic information and shelf marks. The advanced search allows you to find manuscripts from a place, time, time span, current location, scribe and much more.

Information about the book and script can be found there by the basic search of its shelf mark below.

Institution: Bloomington, Indiana University, Bloomington, Lilly Library at Indiana University.

Shelf mark: Medieval and Renaissance 29

Title: Book of Hours, Use of Rome, Heures Mixtes

Title: Book of Hours

Language(s): Latin; French

Notes: Use of Tours. The text comprises: a Calendar, in French (fol. 1r); the Gospel Sequences (fol. 13r); the Obsecro te (fol. 21r); the Hours of the Virgin [Use of Tours] (fol. 29r) mixed with the Hours of the Cross and of the Holy Ghost; the Penitential Psalms (fol. 117r) and Litany; the Office of the Dead (fol. 143r); verses on the Arms of Christ (fol. 207v) and the Instruments of the Passion; and Suffrages (fol. 210r).

Year: 1450 – 1499. Script – Batarde. Country: France. City: Tours

My deconstruction of this script shows:

Script pen angle: Typically at a 40 degree angle from the baseline. Variations do occur.

Script “X” height: 3.5 nib widths.

Ascenders: Typically 1.5 to 2 nib widths

Descenders: Vary greatly with flourish but are never less than 1.5 nib widths. And can be up to 6 nib widths.