Notice "The illuminated book, its history and production"

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secular production, in tandem with monastic production, began thereafter, both surviving until about 200 years after the invention of printing in the 1450s. Yet, whether one considered the writing and illuminating of manuscripts a holy practice or a livelihood, the creation of a manuscript was a wholly intensive endeavor, from the making of paper and inks to the organization of the text and the painstakingly intricate illustrations. The History of the Book. To understand the history of illuminated manuscripts, one must understand the basics of book history. The earliest forms of communication History of Illuminated Manuscripts. Manuscript illumination reached its production peak around 1100 but the earliest surviving manuscripts date back to the 5th century. The establishment of the Gutenberg printing press put an end to the golden era of illuminated manuscripts. When Gutenberg flourished between 1450 and 1455, the prominence of gilded books began to wane in favour of this more cost-efficient publishing. Book usage in the Medieval era was at first exclusive to the upper class and the clergy. Through hand painting, early printed books were created to mimic illuminated manuscripts. However, the practice of manuscript illumination eventually faded. By the 16th century, the printing press took center stage and little was left of gilded books.