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Religious Practice and Experimental Book Production: Text and Image in an Alternative Layman’s “Book of Hours” in Print and Manuscript

Anna Dlabáčová

The *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi* (Devout Hours on the Life and Passion of Jesus Christ) provides an intriguing case study of text and image relationships in the transitional age between manuscript and print. The 1483 and 1484/5 editions of the *Devote ghetiden* were an innovative commercial endeavor by the prolific printer Gerard Leeu. These editions of a new vernacular religious text, flexible in use and primarily aimed at laymen, combined with no less than eighty-four full-page illustrations, offered the lay reader an unprecedented level of visual material for private devotion located in the same object as the text. Changes in both composition and page layout, which occurred when text and image were refashioned in a different medium, altered the reader’s meditative experience, reflecting not only the multiform character and individuation of religious practice on the eve of the Reformation but also the influence of printed books on late medieval textual and visual culture as a whole.

- 1 In 1484 the Netherlandish printer Gerard Leeu moved his business from the town of Gouda in Holland to Antwerp, where he settled right in the middle of the emerging creative quarter. His printing shop was situated next to Our Lady’s Pandt, the art market where paintings, prints, and books were sold side by side.¹ One of the first texts with which Leeu chose to start his business in the developing “capital of capitalism” was a vernacular religious text, the *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi* (Devout Hours on the Life and Passion of Jesus Christ).² It might well be that the success of the previous (first) edition Leeu had published approximately one year earlier in Gouda influenced his decision. As an entrepreneur Leeu took advantage of the public’s persistent demand for spiritual support and combined it with a clever deployment of his pioneering skills with the latest possibility in book production: the use of woodcuts as illustrations in books printed with movable type. The result was an innovative product targeted particularly at laypeople who felt the pressures of busy urban life and the need for reflection on the state of

their souls. The book offered a range of texts, including meditations, the Penitential Psalms, and prayers, accompanied by an extensive program of illustrations. Leeu not only introduced this new compilation of texts and visual material to the market but also devised a novel way of combining text and image in a printed book that fundamentally altered the everyday pious practices of laypeople, thus reflecting changing practices in both book production *and* lay spirituality. After Leeu's second edition the *Devote ghetiden* was reissued at least three times, in Antwerp, Haarlem, and Gouda.³

- 2 The decision to publish a second edition of the *Devote ghetiden* enabled Leeu to reuse the full series of woodcuts he had made for this text. In fact, this is one of the first and most influential series of woodcuts with a religious character cut in the Low Countries.⁴ In 1884 William Martin Conway established that the series as a whole was made for the *Devote ghetiden*, as this was the only text that fitted all sixty-eight images, some of which were used more than once in the editions. Conway named the artist who cut the blocks for Leeu the "Second Gouda Woodcutter."⁵ Leeu and other printers frequently reused these woodcuts, for example, in the extensively illustrated meditative dialogue between Man and Lady Scripture based on the *Vita Christi* by Ludolf of Saxony () first published in 1487 in Antwerp.⁶ Although the compositions of the woodblocks have been studied and their possible origin tentatively traced to prints by Israhel van Meckenem and to an older woodcut series from Lübeck made for a vernacular edition of the *Speculum Humanae Salvationis*, the *Devote ghetiden* itself—the text the images were designed to accompany and which formed the initial context in which the woodcuts functioned—has not to date been the subject of detailed research.⁷ The importance of the *Devote ghetiden* for understanding how text-image relationships had an impact on early printed works and late medieval lay spirituality is underlined by the fact that at least two other woodcut series were originally made to accompany editions of this text, though no copies have survived.⁸ A recent discovery of (parts of) the text in (illuminated) manuscripts suggests an even more prolific circulation of this body of text and images.⁹
- 3 This essay aims to provide a preliminary introduction to the function of the woodcuts within the *Devote ghetiden*, as spiritual instruments in the religious practice of late medieval readers, pointing to the elements that underpinned both the book's production and consumption and acknowledging the complex transmission of text and image in the transition from manuscript to print culture. In what follows I will first introduce the contents and structure of the *Devote ghetiden* and the various functions of the woodcuts. The second section focuses on one specific part of the text—a prayer cycle on the history of salvation—where image and text take on a particularly close association and each opening has the character of an "image-and-text diptych."¹⁰ The third and last section explores the effect of alterations in the composition and execution of the images, and in the layout of the book, on the reader's meditative experience. Changes occurred when a new series of woodcuts was made to illustrate the text and when both textual and visual material were refashioned from a different medium: the manuscript. The conclusion reflects on the influence of printed books on lay devotional practice. Did the printing press and the ability to produce richly illustrated texts relatively cheaply modify practices of devotion? Closely related to the latter question is the more general issue of the influence of print on visual and textual culture in the decades before the Reformation.

The *Devote ghetiden*: Structure, Contents, and Woodcuts

4 In the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (British Library) most editions of the *Devote ghetiden* are catalogued as “Horae [Dutch] Devote getijden van het leven Ons Heren.”¹¹ In reference works such as *Dutch Art: An Encyclopedia* the text is similarly named “*Devote ghetiden* (book of hours).”¹² Even a cursory reading, however, reveals that the *Devote ghetiden* is not a Dutch version of the traditional book of hours. The book starts with a prologue and continues with texts that are divided over the seven days of the week (see **Table 1**). The lion’s share of the texts is not related to the traditional paraliturgical texts in books of hours (calendar, Hours of the Virgin, Hours of the Cross, etc.), and none of the texts is structured according to the canonical hours.¹³ For each day there is a chapter that starts with a meditative text on, respectively, death, the Last Judgment, hell, the love of God, the Passion of Christ, confession, and heaven.¹⁴ The meditative texts are followed by one of the seven Penitential Psalms, the only textual element that is traditionally also a fixed component of books of hours, but here the Psalms appear in an extended version that combines exegesis and contemplative considerations. The *Devote ghetiden* continues with a prayer to the Trinity (related to God’s creation of that day) and a number of prayers (five to twelve a day) on the Creation, the Fall of Man, and the Life, Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. Together these prayers form a prayer cycle on the history of salvation.¹⁵ In each chapter these prayers are followed by a short psalm taken from the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*), the *Adoro Te* prayer in Middle Dutch, and a prayer to All Saints. The latter two prayers conclude the exercise for each day of the week, but their texts and the accompanying woodcut of the Mass of Saint Gregory are found only at the end of the chapter intended for Monday. From Tuesday onward a reference telling the reader to leaf backward suffices.¹⁶ No indication is provided about the time of day the texts should be read or whether they should be performed in a single reading or split between, for example, morning, afternoon, and evening.

Table 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Meditative text (MT) on Death	MT on Last Judgment MT on Hell	MT on Hell	MT on God’s gifts and love	MT on Passion	MT on Confession	MT on Heaven
Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)	Penitential Psalm (extended)
Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity	Prayer to Trinity
7 prayers Creation – Marriage Mary x Joseph	9 prayers Annunciation – Christ at temple	9 prayers Baptism – Purification of the temple	10 prayers Last Supper – JC before Herod	10 prayers JC before Pilate – Raising of the Cross	5 prayers Crucifixion – Anastasis	12 prayers Resurrection – Last Judgment
1st Psalm Souter OLV	2nd Psalm Souter OLV	3rd Psalm Souter OLV	4th Psalm Souter OLV	5th Psalm Souter OLV	6th Psalm Souter OLV	7th Psalm Souter OLV
<i>Adoro Te</i> (AT) and Prayer to All Saints (PtAS)	Reference to AT and PtAS	Reference to AT and PtAS	Reference to AT and PtAS	Reference to AT and PtAS	Litany of Our Lady, Reference to AT and PtAS	Reference to AT and PtAS; 2 extra prayers

5 The *Devote ghetiden* thus combines existing, popular texts such as the *Adoro Te* prayer and the

Penitential Psalms with new, non-standard texts: the meditative texts and the prayer cycle on salvation history.¹⁷ The person who collected the materials and whose voice is clearly recognizable in the prologue discussed below was probably responsible for the latter texts. Therefore, I will refer to him as “author-compiler.” This author-compiler could also be held accountable for the profound confusion in modern scholarship of his work with the traditional book of hours. In the prologue, in which he explains to the reader why this book was made, how it is structured, and for what it is beneficial, he refers to the text as (*corte*) *ghetyden* ([short] hours).¹⁸ For the author-compiler the meaning of *ghetide* (hour) seems to have evolved into a “[daily] contemplative exercise” not necessarily related to the canonical hours and/or the texts traditionally recited at those times of the day.¹⁹ This corresponds with the observation that with the advent of printing the liturgy—the main instrument used by the Church to guide the spiritual life of the laity—was becoming less dominant and other texts were used more freely.²⁰ In the texts themselves the author-compiler refers to the meditative texts as *ghetiden* (hours): on Monday, for example, the votary is asked to “overlegghe huden in dese ghetide dat ghi cortelick van dit leven moet reysen in een ander leven (consider now in this hour that you will shortly have to travel from this life to another).”²¹

- 6 The prologue provides more clues about the background of the author-compiler. One of the few scholars to have dealt with the contents of the *Devote ghetiden* in more detail, the Antwerp Jesuit Léonce Reypens, focused on this introductory text.²² According to him the prologue completely disregards the monastic way of life and was written by an educated author, a secular priest well versed in scripture, the church fathers, and spiritual life.²³
- 7 The prologue emphasizes that good works are impossible without Christ and that man—unlike animals—is gifted with reason so that he can distinguish between good and bad. To reach eternal joy in heaven one should strive to the most perfect state possible in earthly life, for which the author mentions two options: contemplative life, with a reference to Christ’s words to Martha about her sister Mary in the Gospel of Luke (“Mary has chosen the better part,” Luke 10:42), and the priesthood (*die priesterlike staet*).²⁴ It is the latter more than the former that serves as a model for lay religiosity. Inspired by the priests’ daily celebration of the Mass, focusing on the dead (Monday), the Holy Trinity (Tuesday), the Holy Spirit (Wednesday), the Holy Sacrament (Thursday), the Holy Cross and the Passion (Friday), the Virgin (Saturday), and reconciliation with God (Sunday), the author-compiler has arranged three “points” in this book for laypeople.²⁵ Those who want to live a life that will surely lead to perfection—that is, to eternal life—should read these texts on a daily basis: first, a meditative exercise that will prod the reader to repent his sins and incite his fear of God, second, a Penitential Psalm in expiation for the reader’s wrongdoings, and third, prayers to obtain God’s grace and praise him for all his benefactions and ineffable love.²⁶
- 8 The author-compiler was fully aware of the needs of the laity and tailored his work specifically to their needs, as he himself explains:

Want ouermits dat die menschen int ghemeen inder werelt staet int werkelike leuen hem veel tijts becommeren ende onledich maken myt haer neringhen, ambachten of comenscappen, soe en hebben si niet wel die tijt of die macht die seuen ghetyden alle daghe te houden. Daerom sijn hier gheordineert seuen corte ghetyden van die geheel weke, daer elck dach sijn sonderlinghe compunctie, sonderlinghe ghebet der

penitecien ende sonderlinghe ghebeden ende ghetyden heeft.

(Because in general people who live in the world and participate in the active life spend a lot of time bustling about their livelihood, trade or business, for which reason they do not have the time or the strength to keep the seven hours [i.e., the canonical hours] every day. Therefore here are set out seven short hours for the whole week where each day has its specific [act of] remorse, specific penitential prayer and specific prayers and hours.)²⁷

- 9 In a businesslike manner befitting the mindset of his audience the author assures his readers that whoever adopts this exercise and keeps the “hours” as set out in the book will achieve three results: (1) the reader will have the strength to resist the devil, the world, and all sinful desires, (2) will reach an inner consolation in his or her soul that will empower the reader to acquire a “godly taste” for scripture and for heavenly things, better understand and remember all sermons—however ingenious they may be—and in confession properly discern between deadly and daily sins, and last but not least (3) in the hereafter he or she will be raised up on high by God in eternal life together with the angels.²⁸ The author-compiler consciously offered his readers an alternative book of hours that enabled them to integrate spiritual exercises efficiently into the commotion of everyday life, to gain thorough knowledge of matters of the faith, and indeed to reach results comparable to—if not better than—traditional forms of devotion. Furthermore, the texts are gender neutral and thus suitable for both male and female readers, allowing the printers to find a large audience.
- 10 The undeniably lay character of the readership may also explain the small numbers and incompleteness of the surviving copies of the *Devote ghetiden*, as the books would have been kept in private possession and used in households.²⁹ While the book’s primary use would have been for individual silent prayer and contemplation, one can easily imagine that they might have been used for education of the young, especially the images showing the main events in the history of salvation. Furthermore, the books offer simple modes of prayer to illiterate members of the household.³⁰
- 11 The first woodcut the late medieval reader of the Antwerp edition of the *Devote ghetiden* encountered is an emblematic image of Christ as the Man of Sorrows on the title page (fig. 1). The title above the image, introducing the text as *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Ihesu Christi*, positions Christ’s life as the main principle underlying the order of the daily spiritual exercises, which in itself should have made modern readers suspicious as this suggests a different arrangement than that of a traditional book of hours. Interestingly, the prayer cycle on salvation history is positioned as the principal component of the book, while as we have seen above the prayers on this subject were placed between a range of texts addressing various different subjects. Only the meditative text on Friday focuses on the Passion, and here the same woodcut of the Man of Sorrows is used. The fact that Christ’s Passion is central to the title page might have been part of Leeu’s commercial strategy, which sought to take advantage of the fifteenth-century popularity of the Life and Passion of Christ. Looking at the title page the reader got a taste of what was to come: full-page woodcuts that give central stage to the leading figures, placing them in the foreground, while providing enough detail to evoke an imaginative visual experience and structure the process

of prayer.³¹



Fig. 1 Title page (fol. a1r), *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi*, 2nd edition (Antwerp: Gerard Leeu, between September 18, 1484, and July 9, 1485), 8°. Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1 (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 2 Start of the chapter for Monday (fols. a7v–a8r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)

- 12 The next image the reader of the *Devote ghetiden* encounters is the image of Death, which is placed next to the opening of the first meditative text, to be read on Monday (fig. 2). All of the meditative texts at the start of each chapter are accompanied by images depicting the contemplative subject for that day. Apart from structuring the text and enabling readers to find a certain section more easily,³² these images appear to have two main functions: they announce the subject of the day to the readers and prepare them for reading and subsequently ruminating upon the text. It is the woodcut that influences their initial disposition and mental state. In this case Death is presented as a personification, which turns the relatively abstract notion of death into an active actor, a real and present peril. The words in the banderole, “Nemini parco qui vivit in orbe (I spare no one who lives in the world),” not only create a dialogue between text and image, bringing death to life, they also initiate an interaction between the reader (it is the reader to whom Death speaks) and the meditative subject of that day. Death’s statement demands a reaction from the reader—not a literal response but an internal reflection: how does the reader deal with the feelings the image arouses and what stance does he or she take? Are readers prepared for their own personal confrontation with Death?
- 13 The woodcuts at the start of each of the meditative texts also stimulate the reader’s visual imagination, in particular the ability to visualize abstract notions and future and past events. The texts themselves make a strong appeal to this capacity. The meditative text for Tuesday, for example, starts with an appeal to the reader—after he/she has been faced with a fairly conventional image of the Last Judgment (fig. 3) on the left side of the opening—to “cast his inner eyes and thoughts on the Last Judgment so that such a mournful contemplation might make all that seems sweet in the world taste bitter to you.”³³ The events that will take place during the Last Judgment are

described in minute detail, with a strong focus on feelings, making the meditative exercise both visual and emotional. Through the description the reader “sees” and experiences everything—from the indescribable fear that will be caused by the eclipse of the sun and the heavenly signs of lightning and thunder, to the great timidity, shame, trouble, and disgrace of sinful people before the severe judge when the books containing all the thoughts, words, and deeds of every individual will be opened and read in the presence of the entire world. Everything that is now hidden from the eyes of men will be revealed and everyone will have to account for everything he or she has omitted to do and has done. The feeling of desperation all sinners shall experience is emphasized by a direct address to the reader, as if he/she were standing before the judge: “if you would want to deny something, you may do so, but God and the angels have seen everything, and especially your guardian angel will testify against you.”³⁴



Fig. 3 Start of the chapter for Tuesday (fols. d1v–d2r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)

- 14 To fully convince the reader of the need to avoid such a fate, he/she is made to “inwendelike voelen ende bekennen (feel and acknowledge internally)” the disgrace and fear felt by sinners during the Last Judgment by visualizing (“stelt die voer u ogen [put before your eyes]”) a more familiar scene: if caught for robbery or another crime and brought before the court, the reader would not be able to face the people without great shame and disgrace, especially those he or she knows. Imagine what great shame there will be when all the crimes of sinful people are shown for the entire world to see. The author exclaims that no one can consider this and then go on sinning, except for someone who is “dul ende sinneloes (foolish and senseless).”³⁵ At the end of the meditative text for Tuesday readers are once more exhorted to take responsibility for their own souls:

Oordelt nu u selven, bekent u scult, hebt rou ende voldoet, want dan en sal niet genoechliker *wesen* dan een zuver *conscienci*. Wilt nu van sonden wel *ghenesen*, soe ontgae di die scarpe bitter *sentenci* daer ons God wel voer sal *bescermen*, ist dat wij

ons selven nu willen *ontfermen*. [my italics]

(Now judge yourself, admit your guilt, repent and make good, because then [at the Last Judgment] nothing will be more pleasant than an unspotted conscience. If you are willing to be cured from sin now you will escape the severe bitter sentence from which God will protect us if we take care of ourselves now.)³⁶

- 15 It is important to notice that even though the entire text is printed as prose, the original Middle Dutch text makes use of rhyme. This is only one of many rhyming passages in these meditative texts, but a more detailed analysis would go beyond the scope of this essay.³⁷ In this instance the rhyming scheme *ababcc* might have helped the reader to memorize the core advice and carry it in his/her mind during the course of the day (if we assume the texts were read in the morning). The first words of a similar passage with a more elaborate rhyming scheme (*ababbcbccdd*) at the end of the text describing the pains of hell (Wednesday) seem to confirm such a mnemonic use of the verses: “Dit set en hout in u memorie (Put and keep this in your memory).”³⁸ The frequent use of rhyme and the various rhyme schemes employed might confirm that the author was well educated. They might also point to an affiliation or at least familiarity with circles of early “rhetoricians” in Holland or further afield in Flanders.³⁹ This is not surprising as early printers played a crucial role in introducing the work of the late medieval Dutch “rhetoricians” in the Northern Netherlands.⁴⁰
- 16 Initially the woodcuts at the start of these texts served to structure the book, to introduce the subject matter of the day, and to arouse the emotions and stimulate the reader’s visual imagination. As the votary practiced the exercise of the *Devote ghetiden* week in, week out, the function of the images would have gradually altered. While upon a first reading the woodcut of Death might provoke feelings of fear and uncertainty, in later stages the knowledge conveyed by the meditative text would have strengthened the reader’s consciousness about the state of his/her own soul, enabling the reader to appreciate the temporary proximity between him/herself and Death and taking the opportunity to reiterate the main points of the text in the face of Death. Having likewise contemplated the detailed description of the events during the Last Judgment a number of times, the fairly simple woodcut would have sparked a most lively image in the votary’s mind, comparable to an elaborately layered painting expressing the horror, fear, and shame of sinners, but also the joy of the righteous and the way to work toward joining the latter. Gradually the reader might have also become accustomed to associating the image with the verses he or she had memorized and might recite (mentally or orally) the aide-mémoire upon viewing the image in the book—or when faced with a similar image in the public space, for example, in a church or a governmental building.
- 17 The prayers to the Trinity, the short Marian psalms, and the *Adoro Te* prayer are accompanied by woodcuts with emblematic devotional imagery.⁴¹ The images of the *Gnadenstuhl*, Mary clothed with the sun and standing on the crescent moon, and the Mass of Saint Gregory had a strong (supernatural) efficacy of their own, and their very presence was a necessary precondition for successful performance of the prayers. In order to activate the indulgences attached to the *Adoro Te* prayer, the reader was required to have a material image of the Mass of Saint Gregory in front of him/her (fig. 4).⁴² According to Kathryn Rudy such an image allowed the reader to engage with

the Mass and confirm his/her belief in transubstantiation, making the votary eligible for obtaining the indulgences.⁴³ In fact, the woodcut and the experience it evoked seem to have been more powerful than the text, because illiterate persons who recited the words of the *Pater Noster* and *Ave Maria* in front of the woodcut—instead of reading the *Adoro Te* prayer—acquired the same indulgence.⁴⁴



Fig. 4 *Mass of Saint Gregory and Adoro Te* prayer (fols. c6v–c7r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)

- 18 Similarly the image of *Maria in Sole*—omnipresent at the end of the fifteenth century in the Netherlands and often combined with Marian prayers—was most probably required to gain the indulgences attached to the Marian psalms taken from the *Psalter of Our Lady (Souter OLV)*.⁴⁵ For this reason Leeu discarded another woodcut that was originally part of the series, Mary with the Christ Child against a decorative background, and replaced it with the woodcut that depicts the Virgin on the crescent moon (fig. 5a, fig. 5b and fig. 6).⁴⁶ The verse surrounding Mary, “Hoe soudén si hemelrijc moghen ghewinnen / Die Maria niet en beminnen (How may they earn heaven, those who do not love Mary),” might have functioned in a similar way to the rhyming passages in the meditative texts. The necessity of having the image before one’s eyes when reading the prayers is also the reason why this image is repeated seven times in the book. As the same is done with the *Gnadenstuhl* image we might assume that this woodcut fulfilled a comparable function.
- 19 Yet another kind of text-image relationship can be found in the prayer cycle on the history of salvation, inserted each day of the week between the prayers to the Trinity and the Marian psalms. In these sections the images appear to function in close relation to the meditative prayers as instruments that allow the readers to engage in the spiritual practice of the imitation of Christ; a process of prayer intended to reform their soul in his image.



Fig. 5a Psalm from the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*) (fol. c5v), *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi*, 1st edition (Gouda: Gerard Leeu, 1483, before December 10), 8°. San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv.100989 (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 5b Psalm from the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*) (fol. c6r), *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi*, 1st edition (Gouda: Gerard Leeu, 1483, before December 10), 8°. San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv.100989 (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 6 Psalm from the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*) (fols. c5v–c6r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)

A Pictorial and Verbal Prayer Cycle on the History of Salvation

20 The fifty-two meditative texts of the prayer cycle transform the events of the history of salvation

into models the soul can emulate. All prayers are accompanied by a full-page image. Image and text face each other, evoking the sense of a succession of image-and-text diptychs (fig. 7).⁴⁷ A similar diptychlike arrangement of text and image can be found in other early printed books such as the *Boexken vander missen* (Booklet on the Mass) by the Franciscan Observant Gerrit van der Goude, where pictorial images and allegorical explanations of the acts during Mass are faced by meditative prayers and woodcuts depicting events from Christ's life (fig. 8a, fig. 8b).⁴⁸ The inclusion of images in such texts—one of the major advantages of the printing press that was commercially exploited by printers—altered not only the process of knowledge transmission but also devotional practice itself in that religious information was presented in an increasingly visual mode.⁴⁹



Fig. 7 Creation of Eve and the first prayer of the prayer cycle on the history of salvation (fols. b6v–b7r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 8a Text and image (fols. 46v), Gerrit van der Goude, *Dat boexken vander missen* (Booklet on the Mass) (Gouda: Collaciebroeders, 1506), 8°. The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 227



Fig. 8b Text and image (fol. 47r), Gerrit van der Goude, *Dat boexken vander missen* (Booklet on the Mass) (Gouda: Collaciebroeders, 1506), 8°. The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 227

21

The *Devote ghetiden* and the prayer cycle in particular present an excellent example of how an unprecedentedly large amount of pictorial material could be integrated into the practice of prayer.

Each opening—each unit of text and image—allowed readers to engage in a meditation that fully combined text and image: as they moved their eyes back and forth between woodcut and prayer, the image served to deepen their meditative prayer based on the text. All prayers in the cycle on the history of salvation follow a similar structure: the votary addresses the Godhead or Christ in a way that is in keeping with the event, speaks words of gratitude, and then reads a brief description of the event, which is also shown by the image. The votary then moves on to make a request—always connected to the spiritual model provided by the description of the event. To study the function of these texts and the accompanying pictorial images as spiritual instruments in more detail, I will discuss three examples from different episodes of Christ’s life: the Adoration of the Magi (fig. 9),⁵⁰ the Crucifixion (fig. 10),⁵¹ and the Supper at Emmaus (fig. 11).⁵²



Fig. 9 *The Adoration of the Magi* and adjacent prayer text (fols. e6v–e7r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 10 *The Crucifixion with Mary and Saint John* and adjacent prayer text (fols. p3v–p4r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 11 *The Supper at Emmaus* and adjacent prayer text (fols. s1v–s2r), *Devote ghetiden* (fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)

22 The first prayer addresses Christ as the “king of kings, lord of lords and prince of princes (O coninc der coninghen, o heer der heren, o prins der princen)” and describes how his birth was revealed to the shepherds by an angel and to the three kings by a beautiful, miraculous star.⁵³ This event is turned into a model for the soul’s reformation as the votary prays to Christ through the “deep, wonderful humility (diepe, wonderlike oetmoedicheyt)” he has demonstrated and taught

us through this example: even though the Son of God was born in the poorest of circumstances, in a humble, smelly beast's shed, he did not shy away from revealing his birth to the rich and powerful kings who came loaded with precious gifts and a fierce desire to honor him.⁵⁴ The votary pleads that he may follow Christ's meekness, never again regard himself highly but instead with these kings offer Christ love (gold), devout prayer (incense), and meekness (myrrh).

23 The close association between text and image suggests that before, while, and after reading the prayer, the votary could have moved mentally through the accompanying woodcut a number of times, focusing on different aspects of the image. Starting with the Christ Child who is revered as a king by the Magi—underpinning the initial words of the prayer—and then moving to the star, which is prominently shown in the sky as a symbol of Christ's meekness. The king standing next to Mary seems to make a blessing gesture that points to the star as if to direct the viewer's attention toward Christ's honorable deed of revealing his birth. Moving back to the group in the foreground the votary would have contemplated the Christ Child, sitting naked on his mother's lap in front of their humble dwelling, while the richly attired kings offer him their gifts. Toward the end of the prayer, the image would have aided the reader in adopting the perspective of the kings: by focusing on the king who has laid his crown—the symbol of his status—on the ground and kneels before Christ, the votary would have inwardly laid off his pride and assumed a humble position (“dat ic die oetmoedicheyt moet navolghen ende nymmermeer my selven en moet ... goet achten [that I may follow this meekness and never again regard myself favorably]”), subordinating himself to Christ and sinking into prayer with the kings (“Mer dat ic met desen heylighen coninghen u offeren moet gout der minnen, wyeroeck des devoten ghebedes ende mirre der oetmoedigher ghestorvenheyt [But that I, with these holy kings, may offer you gold of love, incense of devout prayer, and myrrh of submissive meekness]”). Finally, the vessels the kings hold in their hands represent the votary's gifts to Christ—love, devout prayer, and meekness.

24 The prayer that accompanies the Crucifixion with Mary and John the Evangelist (fig. 10) starts with the votary thanking God for his “pitiful hanging (deerliken hanghen)” for three hours on three blunt nails.⁵⁵ The votary then prays to the Lord:

Ic bid u, liever heer, dat die aenmerkinge mijnre groter sonden, der ewigher hellen die ic soe dic daer mede verdient heb ende des bitteren doots die ghi daer voer gheleden hebt als drie naghelen mi altoes vast anden cruce der penitencien houden moghen.

(I pray to you, dear Lord, that the consideration of my heavy sins, of the eternal hell that I earned through them so often, and of the bitter death that you have suffered for them, may keep me firmly secured to the cross of penance as [if they were] three nails.)⁵⁶

25 The three nails are clearly visible in the woodcut as large black iron pins piercing Christ's hands and feet. Having elaborated on this aspect, the votary returns to Christ's Crucifixion and thus to the events that preceded the pictorial scene before his/her eyes. The votary asks God to lend him/her the grace to forgive all those who have done the votary wrong, to pray for them, and to be merciful to all sinners, just as Christ prayed for those who crucified him and promised paradise,

exemplifying perfection, to one of the robbers. Focusing on John and Mary, who appear on Christ's left- and right-hand sides, the votary requests that Christ entrusts him/her to his dear mother, just as he had entrusted her to John.⁵⁷ The votary also asks to be granted a desire equal to the yearning with which Christ longed for our salvation: "And just as you desired our salvation, so grant me, dear Lord, to truthfully desire to fulfill your will (Ende also als u dorste na onser salicheyt, also verleent mi lieve heer warachtelic te dorsten uwen wil te volbrenghe)." At the end of the prayer the votary expresses the wish that when all has been accomplished the votary may lay his/her soul in his hands ("that I may proffer my soul in your hands [dat ic mijn ziel dan offeren mach in uwen handen]"), echoing Christ's last words and possibly also alluding to John resting on Jesus's bosom during the Last Supper.⁵⁸

- 26 In the prayer positioned next to and thus interacting with the woodcut showing the Supper at Emmaus (fig. 11), the votary thanks Christ for the inexpressible kindness and compassion that he showed the two disciples who on the day of the Resurrection were on their way to Emmaus, talking about what had happened at Jerusalem. Christ revealed himself to them in the guise of a pilgrim and explained scripture and his own suffering to them.⁵⁹ Halfway through the prayer, the votary asks Christ for help:

Ic bid u, liever here, leert mi mijn tonghe bedwingen ende bewaren van allen ydelen onvruchtbarighen woerden ende altijt van u ende van uwen heylighen liden te spreken op dat ic uwer soeter openbaringhe delachtich mach worden.

(I pray to you, dear Lord, teach me to suppress my tongue and to keep it from all idle, fruitless words and always to speak about your holy Passion so that I may partake in your sweet revelation.)⁶⁰

- 27 Just as the hearts of those dear disciples were inflamed with love through Christ's friendly words, which made them press Christ to stay with them ("dat si u noden ende biddende dwonghen bi hem te bliven ende kennende worden inden breken des broots [that they invited and compelled you to stay with them and became knowledgeable in the breaking of the bread]"), so the votary yearns for Christ, "also bid ic u dat ghi bi mi blijft ende met uwen soeten woerden in uwer minnen ontsteect (so I pray to you that you stay with me and ignite in me your love with your sweet words)." In that way the votary will never again have to part from God. The woodcut connects closely with the end of the prayer, describing Christ breaking bread. The text first takes the votary back to the events preceding the scene portrayed. In his/her meditative prayer the votary could mentally travel to Emmaus and enter the intimate, homely space depicted in the woodcut through the porch on the right, possibly identifying himself with the disciple standing next to the door. He could partake of the supper, sit at the table, become inflamed with Christ's sweet words, look up to Christ through the other disciple, see his true nature, and long always to stay with Christ in this room. Having read the prayer on the right-hand page, the votary could move his eye back to the image and contemplate further his desire for the intimate closeness to Christ expressed in both prayer and image.

- 28 Although the images that illustrate the prayer cycle are conventional compositions that stem from a long pictorial tradition, when placed next to prayers containing meditations on these specific

events that connect them to the state of the votary's soul, they function as spiritual instruments in dialogue with the text. The text highlights specific aspects of the image and in turn the latter initiates, deepens, and further develops the reader's meditation, stimulating his/her imagination such that he/she becomes mentally present in the scene and thus in more direct contact with God. In the *Devote ghetiden* as a whole these prayers and images serve a well thought-out function. As the author-compiler himself explains in the prologue, the meditative texts at the start of the day and the subsequent psalms were meant to make the reader repent his sins. The prayers then served as a way to obtain God's grace.⁶¹ The *Devote ghetiden* thus engage the reader in a thorough program of reformation of the soul.⁶² The images and contemplative texts at the start of the day serve to stimulate the soul's awareness of its spiritual condition. They strengthen the reader's awareness of what can go—and has already gone—wrong and the consequences he/she will have to face if no actions are taken. Once the soul is drawn away from sin and cleansed by reading the Penitential Psalm, it is ready to be formed according to Christ's example. The visual narratives and meditative prayers offer positive models the soul should strive to emulate. The prayers and images stimulate the votary to visualize and enter mentally into the events of salvation history, offering the soul models by which to renew itself, returning to its original state, when it was created in the image of God.

29 **Changing the Scene, Altering the Experience: Variations in Print and Manuscript**
In late medieval book production the relationship between text and image was by no means fixed. As woodcuts were frequently reused, recut, and combined with blocks from other series, the same text could take on a close relation to more than one image, or the other way around: the same image could easily take on a fruitful dialogue with a completely different text, especially when the author of the new text knew the image, although this did not have to be the case.⁶³ Furthermore, text and image were not fixed to a single medium. It has often been acknowledged that the transition from manuscript to print was a gradual process during which both media functioned side by side. Quite a few examples of manuscripts containing transcriptions from printed editions and of manuscript illuminators using prints as inspiration for their work have been uncovered, but usually the interplay between manuscript and print is discussed separately for text and image.⁶⁴

30 The fact that the *Devote ghetiden* also circulated in manuscript form has not to date been noted in research and provides an intriguing case for the study of the transfer of text-image units from print to manuscript (and possibly vice versa). Seven manuscripts, all dated at least a couple of years after the first printed edition, contain (parts of) the *Devote ghetiden*.⁶⁵ The prayer cycle on the history of salvation proved to be the most popular part of the *Devote ghetiden*, at least parts of it being included in all seven manuscripts. In 1978 Philip Webber, unaware of the circulation of the cycle in the printed editions of the *Devote ghetiden*, edited the prayer cycle as an independent text on the basis of a manuscript at Princeton (Princeton University Library, Garrett Ms. 63).⁶⁶ Cornelia van Wulfschkercke (d. 1540), a nun at the Carmelite convent of Sion in Bruges, produced this codex for her own devotional practice in the early sixteenth century.⁶⁷ Webber's major argument for this manuscript's originality was "its terse style,"⁶⁸ but this seems in fact to have consisted of abbreviations and changes, possibly made by Cornelia herself, to the *Devote ghetiden*. The fact that the large majority of the seven manuscripts contain further texts from the *Devote ghetiden*⁶⁹—usually combined with yet other texts—is an additional indication that Cornelia most probably extracted the prayer cycle from the *Devote ghetiden*. Cornelia's manuscript

is exceptional not only because it contains none of the other texts from the *Devote ghetiden* and slightly abridged versions of all the prayers but also because it was the only manuscript made by a professed religious person.⁷⁰

31 Focusing mainly on the prayer cycle the final section of this essay explores the complex transmission of text and image between print and manuscript and the changes in text-and-image relations insofar as they lead to a different reading and/or an alternative meditative experience.⁷¹ Such an exploration can point to a number of patterns that occur when a verbal-pictorial narrative was not only produced by printers but also circulated in manuscript.

32 First, let us stay within the boundaries of printed book production. As mentioned above, copies exist of five printed editions of the *Devote ghetiden* and further editions (of which no copies have come down to us) are suggested by the existence of woodcut series that contain the full illustrational program of the text. The only edition of which a copy has survived that does not combine the text with Leeu's woodcuts is the 1486 Haarlem edition by Jacob Bellaert.⁷² Even though Bellaert, a former apprentice of Leeu, borrowed printing material from his former master, for some reason he felt the need to have a new series of illustrations made for his edition of the *Devote ghetiden*.⁷³ Some of Bellaert's woodcuts differ considerably from Leeu's illustrations. This can be partially explained by the woodcutter's use of different models, as some compositions relate more closely to the *Biblia Pauperum* block book and engravings by the Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs, as is for example the case with the Nativity scene (fig. 12). Some differences, however, do not have precedents in earlier illustration cycles and might have resulted from a close(r) reading of the text. In turn, this changed the reading and focus of the votary's meditative prayer.



Fig. 12a *The Nativity* from *Devote ghetiden* (fols. e4v–e5r) (see fig. 1) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 12b *The Nativity* from *Devote ghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi* (fols. e4v–e5r) (Haarlem: Jacob Bellaert, April 8–August 20, 1486) 8°, Special Collections, University of Amsterdam, Inc. 421 (artwork in the public domain)

33 The woodcut next to the Supper at Emmaus prayer, for example, changes the reader's meditative experience considerably. The focus is not on the intimate scene of the disciples and Christ at the table (the tradition found in the work of Israhel van Meckenem and the Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs). In Bellaert's woodcut (fig. 13) the actual meeting and the conversation between Christ and the disciples becomes the central event through which the reader's mental presence



Fig. 12c1 *The Nativity* from Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs, prayer book (fol. 17v), Dutch, after ca. 1485, paper, ca. 130 x 90 mm, Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909 (artwork in the public domain)

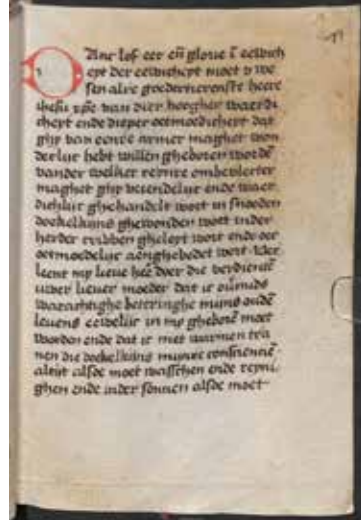


Fig. 12c2 *The Nativity* from Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs, prayer book (fol. 18r), Dutch, after ca. 1485, paper, ca. 130 x 90 mm, Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909 (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 12d *The Nativity* from Israhel van Meckenem, ca. 1460–1500, engraving, paper, 69 x 48mm, London, British Museum, inv. 1850,0223.6 (artwork in the public domain; photo [d]: © Trustees of the British Museum)

is stimulated. The perspective of the image, Christ and the disciples are seen from the back, as if the viewer were standing on the side of the road, invites the onlooker to join the group and walk with them to Emmaus. The main focus is now on Christ's lessons and the votary's plea that he/she might open his/her mouth only to speak of Christ's suffering. The actual supper is shown to the reader in the background of the image, clearly as an allusion to that earlier event. The strong sense of an evolving narrative within the image would have made the reader's meditative prayer less static. Guided by the text the votary is able to move through the dynamic of the continuous narrative in the image and experience the various stages of the prayer more fully.



Fig. 13 *Road to and Supper at Emmaus* (fols. s1v–s2r), *Devotieghetiden vanden leven ende passie Jhesu Christi* (see fig. 12b) (artwork in the public domain)

34 In manuscripts even more profound changes occurred in the way text and image interacted in forming the reader's meditative experience and the renewal of his soul. On the one hand

manuscripts offered more possibilities for customizing a text and tailoring a book to personal wishes. On the other hand, manuscript illumination not only had its own conventions, it was still relatively expensive and the inclusion of the same amount of visual material as was to be found in the printed editions of the *Devote ghetiden*, employing hand-painted miniatures on parchment, would have been very costly. This did occur, however, possibly when well-to-do laypeople of the upper echelons of society wished to integrate the exercises of the *Devote ghetiden* into their lives but preferred to do so by means of a lavishly decorated manuscript. An early sixteenth-century parchment manuscript at the British Library (Add. Ms. 20729), which has not previously been connected to the printed editions of the *Devote ghetiden*, contains the complete text illustrated with full-page miniatures and decorated with ornate borders (fig. 14).⁷⁴ In the prayer cycle on the history of salvation the manuscript follows the same image-text diptych layout as the printed versions of the *Devote ghetiden*. An inscription on the inside of the binding, “Gulleelmo de Dene,” might point to a lay owner, probably from Flanders.⁷⁵



Fig. 14a Start of the chapter for Monday (fol. 6v), manual of prayers, Dutch, early 16th century, parchment, 190 x 120 mm. London, British Library, Add. Ms. 20729 (artwork in the public domain; photo: © The British Library Board)

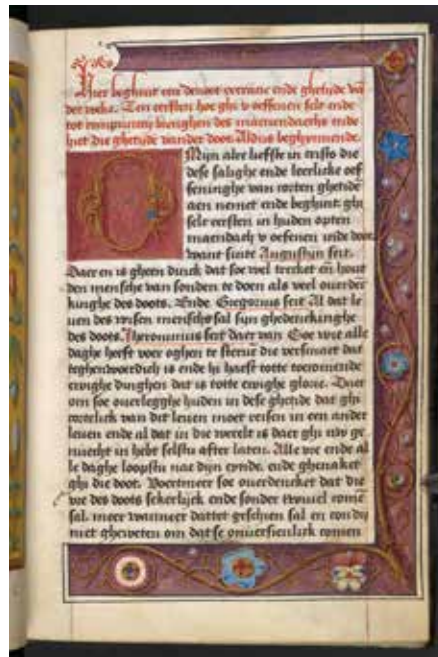


Fig. 14b Start of the chapter for Monday (fol. 7r), manual of prayers, Dutch, early 16th century, parchment, 190 x 120 mm. London, British Library, Add. Ms. 20729 (artwork in the public domain; photo: © The British Library Board)

35 In two other richly decorated parchment manuscripts, one illuminated by the Master of Cornelis Croesinck (The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 135 E 19)—one of the Masters of the Dark Eyes⁷⁶—and the other by the Masters of Hugo Jansz van Woerden (The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. BPH 79), the texts were probably adapted to the wishes of the patrons: both manuscripts contain the prayers to the Trinity, (most of) the prayers of the prayer cycle, and the psalms from the Souter OLV. The meditative texts at the start of each day and the Penitential Psalms are replaced by other devotional texts (Ms. BPH 79) or left out (Ms. 135 E 19).⁷⁷ The former manuscript illustrates each prayer with a large washed drawing in a gold-leaf frame. Hinke Bakker has convincingly argued that they are based on a series of woodcuts made for Hugo Jansz van Woerden.⁷⁸ The strict alternation of image and text found in the printed books is not maintained, however; when written by

hand the prayers were apparently too long to fit on a single page. The prayers always start beneath the miniature and continue on the recto or verso page, depending on whether the miniature is placed on the verso or recto of a leaf. After the end of the prayer the page is left blank. This means that the reader was not able to move his eyes between text and image while reading the whole text of the prayer; or to connect aspects of the text to the image and let the image stimulate his meditation without having to leaf back. The images themselves, especially the ones that illustrate the Passion, evoke a meditation that is more focused on the bodily suffering of Christ: in the drawings Christ's body is covered with drops, streaks, and streams of bright red blood (fig. 15).⁷⁹



Fig. 15 *Disrobing of Christ* (fol. 85v), Master of Hugo Jansz van Woerden, prayer book, Dutch, ca. 1500, parchment, 131 x 90 mm. The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. BPH 79 (artwork in the public domain)

- 36 But it was not only the blood in the images that altered the focus of the votary's meditation. The prayer accompanying the image of Mary and John beneath the cross in Leeu's editions is replaced with a longer prayer (ca. 1,100 words) that starts with a description of Christ's body stretched on the cross as a string drawn on a bow and hanging between two robbers (fig. 16). The reader's intended focus on the three nails and on John and Mary is exchanged for meditations on the Seven Last Words Christ spoke from the cross. At the end of the prayer the following rubric appears: "Ende of yemant dit gebet alle dage lesen woude dair om isser int corte verhaelt wat sonderlinghes dat hier na volget in die twee ghebeden" (And in case someone might wish to read this prayer every day, therefore it contains a brief account of what is elaborated in the two following prayers). This prayer enabled readers who wanted to meditate on this central event in Christ's Passion every day of the week to do so, providing them with more details and points to consider than the prayer in the printed editions. Again, just as in the *Devote ghetiden*, the epitome of late medieval lay spirituality seems to be an efficient spiritual exercise (i.e., "three prayers in one").
- 37 The same prayer occurs in the manuscript illuminated by the Master of Cornelis Croesinck, which was probably made for a married couple (depicted on fol. 2v) and later owned by Anna Geverts.⁸⁰ In contrast to the Masters of Hugo Jansz van Woerden, the Master of Cornelis Croesinck also changed the image that accompanies the text, thus altering the reader's experience even more profoundly: instead of Mary and John praying beneath the cross, the text is now illustrated by



Fig. 16a The Crucifixion from (a) Master of Hugo Jansz van Woerden, prayer book (fol. 96v) (see fig 15) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 16b *The Crucifixion* from *Leven Ons Heren* (fol. t8r) (Leiden: Hugo Jansz van Woerden, May 25, 1498), 8°. Leiden, University Library, inv. 1497 G 43 (artwork in the public domain)

an elaborate image of the Crucifixion showing Christ between the two robbers and beneath the cross his tormentors and friends, of course still including Mary and John, but reflecting the more diverse perspective of the prayer (fig. 17).



Fig. 17 *The Crucifixion* (fols. 88v–89r), Master of Cornelis Croesinck, prayer book, Dutch, ca. 1490–1500, parchment, 161 x 121 mm. The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 135 E 19 (artwork in the public domain)

38 The Master of Cornelis Croesinck also found a different solution for illustrating the prayers in a more efficient way. Each day, before the first prayer of the cycle, he painted a full-page miniature

in which he chose either to show the most important event (as was the case with the Crucifixion on Saturday) or to combine several events in a single image, by dividing the miniature into several compartments (fig. 18) or, if the narrative sequence in the prayers allowed for such a treatment, by placing the events within a landscape, sometimes adding additional compartments in the border decoration and thus combining up to five “images” or episodes on one leaf (fig. 19). Images of subsequent prayers, which he was unable to fit onto the first leaf, were placed within or next to the initial at the start of the prayer, as was the case with the Adoration of the Magi (fig. 20). This layout is, of course, far removed from the image-and-text diptych in the printed books, creating an experience that was directed rather more toward the larger narrative. The size and layout of the images made them suitable as mnemonic devices and as meditative images that let the reader travel mentally through a number of events at a time—which is quite divergent from single devotional images functioning in close relation to the text of a prayer.



Fig. 18 Prayer book (fols. 51v–52r) (see fig. 17) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 19 Prayer book (fols. 62v–63r) (see fig. 17) (artwork in the public domain)



Fig. 20 *Adoration of the Magi* (fol. 42v), prayer book (see fig. 17) (artwork in the public

39 In her manuscript, Cornelia van Wulfschkercke maintained the alternation of text and image that characterized the printed editions, although she placed the text on the verso and the image on the recto of each leaf. The prayer cycle, however, is not ordered according to the days of the week and, as noted above, the prayers are abridged. In making the manuscript Cornelia was most likely trying to satisfy her own devotional requirements, and it appears that the existing image-and-text diptychs did not always fulfill her needs. The inclusion of the *Adoration of the Magi* for example, was apparently not sufficient to support her devotion. The fact that Christ sent an angel to inform the shepherds about his birth, only briefly mentioned in the printed editions, is in her manuscript turned into a separate prayer accompanied by a miniature of the shepherds rejoicing upon seeing the angel in the sky (fig. 21). The text of the prayer, however, does not provide a clear model for the soul to emulate—the votary simply prays for protection against deadly sins, which eventually leads to eternal joy. Apart from illustrating the joy of the shepherds, the additional image might have served as a model for the joy one should feel when rejoicing in Christ's birth, but the text does not offer any direct clues.



Fig. 21 *Annunciation to the Shepherds* (fol. 26r), Cornelia van Wulfschkercke, prayer book, Dutch, early 16th century, parchment, 182 x 126 mm. Princeton University Library, Manuscript Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Garrett Ms. 63 (artwork in the public domain; photo: © Princeton University Library)

40

Instead of illustrating the prayer cycle by hand—whether with drawings or painted miniatures—another option for creating an illustrated prayer cycle in late medieval book production was the use of engravings, usually printed on loose leaves and pasted into manuscripts. A manuscript kept in Vienna starts with the last (seventh) prayer to the Trinity (which might suggest that part of the manuscript is missing) and contains the prayer cycle on the history of salvation illustrated with engravings by the Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs (Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909). The engravings were, however, not pasted in as loose leaves but printed on bifolia in two gatherings and arranged into a booklet.⁸¹ According to Ursula Weekes one of the innovative commercial strategies of engravers was to sell such ready-made booklets to which texts could be added later, pointing to the Vienna manuscript as the example par excellence.⁸² Image thus seems to have preceded text, although in this instance the text had previously been combined with a related series of woodcuts in the printed editions. A relation between the engravings by the Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs and the woodcuts for the *Devote ghetiden* has been briefly noted by the art historian Fritz Oskar Schupisser and needs further study, especially now it has become clear that both series accompanied the same text in late medieval books (both printed books and manuscripts).⁸³ The situation with regard to the complex of visual material transmitted together with the *Devote ghetiden* in print and manuscript (Leeu's and Bellaert's woodblocks, engravings by the Master of the Ten Thousand Martyrs, and drawings and miniatures, which in turn are [partly] based on printed material) is too intricate and intermeshed than to allow to point to a single origin of the compositions.

41

In the Vienna manuscript the engravings sometimes precede the text, appearing on the left-hand side of the opening (fols. 1–26v and 55v–79v), but in all other sections of the manuscript the texts precede the engravings, which are placed on the rectos of the leaves. The makers of this codex encountered the same problem as the Masters of Hugo Jansz van Woerden: most prayers did not fit on a single page and the versos of most of the engravings were consequently left entirely blank. In the sections where the engraving is placed on the left of the opening and thus precedes the prayer, the effect achieved was similar to the printed books. In the other sections, however, the reader had to read the principal part of the prayer without viewing the image. Placing the engravings at the end of the prayers gives the impression that they are additions, afterthoughts rather than integral parts of the meditative prayers.

42

Finally, it is important to note that two of the manuscripts do not contain any images at all.⁸⁴ Apparently the images were deemed very useful but not indispensable for a fruitful use of the text. These manuscripts suggest that the pragmatics of prayer did not necessarily demand images. The use of “external” pictorial aids such as paintings or single-leaf woodcuts cannot, of course, be ruled out.

Conclusions

43

With the printed editions of the *Devote ghetiden* Gerard Leeu catered to the taste for devotional and meditative books geared toward private use by a lay readership. The text would have appealed to the growing urban community looking for a way to engage more deeply with spiritual growth. The relative success of this text shows that several decades before the Reformation people had already become accustomed to seeking printed material that would give direction to their religious practices. Pictorial material played an increasingly important role as books with many illustra-

tions could now be produced more cheaply. In this sense the *Devote ghetiden* provide an indication that the printing press did indeed bring about new forms of religious reading and meditative practice: the incorporation of large quantities of pictorial material in printed books strengthened their visual appeal and reflect the turn toward more visualization in late medieval devotion.⁸⁵

44 When this pictorial material—woodcuts—is studied in the context for which it was made initially (or even its reuse in combination with different texts, which would be the next step) we can understand its function in lay devotion more profoundly. Although Webber states as an obvious fact that prayer cycles such as the one that was part of the *Devote ghetiden* were created for use within religious communities, a more in-depth reading of the *Devote ghetiden* shows that this was not the case.⁸⁶ Neither are there indications that this text was intended for female readers in particular—the consistent neutral gendering of the prayers is just one sign that points to a mixed readership.⁸⁷ The *Devote ghetiden* represent new attitudes toward text-and-image devotions in the transitional period between manuscript and print, revealing insights about the larger complex dialogue between text and image in late medieval devotion.

45 Until recently, a book like the *Devote ghetiden* would have undoubtedly been connected to the reform movement known as Modern Devotion.⁸⁸ Studies by Koen Goudriaan have shown, however, that the large production of vernacular works with a religious character, which were intended by early printers in the Low Countries to reach a wide audience, cannot be seen as a direct result of the *Devotio Moderna*.⁸⁹ Instead, members of the Franciscan Observance are now seen as important initiators of early publications of vernacular devotional literature. Their share in the entire production is however also limited—only about 150 out of almost 1,300 editions.⁹⁰ The *Devote ghetiden* is a good example of one of the many texts whose origin is not absolutely clear but which did meet the demand for suitable spiritual literature among the laity and in turn influenced lay devotion at the end of the Middle Ages. The circles in which the edition came into being—the author-compiler was a well-educated priest, possibly with connections to chambers of rhetoric; the commercial printer collaborated with other creative professionals (e.g. woodcutters)—form the context in which a large part of ‘pre-Reformation’ printed devotional literature must have originated. As the Church did not have a specific strategy with regard to printing in the Low Countries, it was these kinds of creative collaborative communities that discovered a gap in the market. In meeting the demand they freely exploited a vast field of possibilities and by no means restricted themselves to reproducing texts and genres already established in manuscript circulation.⁹¹

46 Lay spirituality and the responsibility late-medieval people felt for the wellbeing of their souls proved commercially interesting and formed an important way for creative professionals such as printers to exercise, innovate, and develop their trade. In Antwerp, professionals of the “creative industry” *avant la lettre*, were united in the guild of St. Luke.⁹² Gerard Leeu was the first printer to become a member of the guild. Printers, painters and poets collaborated in administrative functions and creative manifestations such as city festivals.⁹³ Their productions also dovetailed with the consumption of text and image: mainstream texts such as the *Devote ghetiden* could be purchased alongside paintings and sculpture in or close to the art market at Our Lady’s Pandt. It was this collaborative community *and* market to which Leeu brought the *Devote ghetiden* in 1484/5. His innovative product—combining user-friendly texts with a large quantity of images—

influenced other media such as manuscripts. Jeffrey Hamburger already noted that prints had an impact on the illustration of prayer books, especially in the Lower Rhine region, with reference to two prayer books with illustrations reminiscent of prints, but not directly dependent on them.⁹⁴ The case of the *Devote ghetiden* provides further confirmation of the influence of printing on manuscript illumination, which resulted in handwritten codices with expansive pictorial narratives that until the late fifteenth century were relatively rare in manuscripts.⁹⁵

- 47 In contrast to the *ip*, which generally regards printed books as plain, monochrome products compared to the colorful personal manuscripts of the late medieval period, and in which printers are generally thought to imitate manuscript production,⁹⁶ it seems that in the case of the *Devote ghetiden* the influence was reversed. Printed books inspired luxurious manuscripts with unprecedented numbers of (full leaf) miniatures, making manuscript illumination ever richer. A dazzlingly colorful and sumptuous manuscript such as the London codex containing the *Devote ghetiden* would have been at least partly inspired by the products of the early printing press, and it cannot be ruled out that they influenced other media and visual art (paintings) as well.⁹⁷
- 48 Clearly, books such as the *Devote ghetiden* influenced other forms of artistic expression, accelerating iconographic developments in a variety of media, but they also informed the minds of readers and viewers, influencing their perception and appreciation of art.⁹⁸ They can help us understand the knowledge of the faith that laypeople had at their disposal and the way they related to, reacted to, and explained pictorial images—whether encountered in a book, a print, or a painting. The unique selling point of the *Devote ghetiden* lay in its ability to provide devotional guidance for busy laypeople, who did not have the time nor the strength to pray the hours contained in a traditional book of hours. This shows at once the flexibility of late medieval piety and its commercial potential.

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I would like to thank Geert Warnar (Leiden University) and Nigel F. Palmer (University of Oxford) for their comments on draft versions of this essay and Walter S. Melion (Emory University) and Klara Broekhuijsen (University of Amsterdam) for useful discussions and suggestions in earlier stages of my research. Unless otherwise indicated, translations are mine.

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In the notes below, the following abbreviations are used: ISTC (Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, British Library: www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html) and *ILC* (Gerard van Thienen and John Goldfinch, *Incunabula Printed in the Low Countries: A Census* [Nieuwkoop: De Graaf, 1999]).

¹ In the colophon of the *Boeck vanden leven Jhesu Christi* (1487) (*ILC* 1503 / ISTC no. il00353000), Leeu states that his workshop is situated in “Sinte Marcus naest Onser Vrouwen Pandt (Saint Mark next to Our Lady’s Pandt)”; see Anna Dlabáčová and Daniëlle Prochowski, “Preken en publiceren: De franciscaanse observantie als producent en aanjager van religieuze literatuur in de Lage Landen, circa 1490–1560; Ter inleiding,” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 85 (2014): 225. On Our Lady’s

Pandt, see Dan Ewing, “Marketing Art in Antwerp, 1460–1560: Our Lady’s Pand,” *Art Bulletin* 72 (1990): 559–69.

² The first printed book produced in Antwerp, on June 8, 1481, by Mathias van der Goes, was a vernacular religious text: *Boexken vander officien ofte dienst der missen* (ILC 1987 / ISTC no. is00529100).

³ See note 11 below.

⁴ William Martin Conway, *The Woodcutters of the Netherlands in the Fifteenth Century: In Three Parts* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1884), 46. See also Christiane Möller, *Jacob Cornelisz. van Oostanen und Doen Pietersz.: Studien zur Zusammenarbeit zwischen Holzschneider und Drucker im Amsterdam des frühen 16. Jahrhunderts* (Münster: Waxmann, 2005), 39–42; Bart Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties bij het leven van Jezus,” in *Een drukker zoekt publiek: Gheraert Leeu te Gouda 1477–1484*, ed. Koen Goudriaan et al. (Delft: Eburon, 1993), 141; Koen Goudriaan, “Middle Dutch Meditative Lives of Jesus on the Early Printing Press: An Exploration of the Field,” in Koen Goudriaan, *Piety in Practice and Print: Essays on the Late Medieval Religious Landscape*, ed. Anna Dlabáčová and Ad Tervoort (Hilversum: Verloren, 2016), 225–27. For a full descriptions of the series and its reuse, see Ina Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula Printed in the Low Countries* (Houten: Hes & De Graaf, 2013), 1:166–81.

⁵ Conway, *The Woodcutters*, 46–47. Leeu did use some of the woodblocks in earlier editions (from 1482 onward); see Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:168–74, and especially 172 on the possibility of an earlier unknown edition of the *Devote ghetiden* that would have been printed before July 29, 1482. See also Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties,” 147, who came up with the name “Master of the Passion of Gerard Leeu” for the designer of the woodcuts.

⁶ Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties,” 154–56; Anna Dlabáčová, “Drukken en publieksgroepen: Productie en receptie van gedrukte Middelnederlandse meditatieve Levens van Jezus (ca. 1479–1540),” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 79 (2008): 330–37; Geert Warnar, “The Discovery of the Dialogue in Dutch Medieval Literature: A Discourse for Meditation and Disputation,” in *Meditatio–Refashioning the Self: Theory and Practice in Late Medieval and Early Modern Intellectual Culture*, ed. K. Enenkel and W. S. Melion (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 79–81.

⁷ Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties,” esp. 141–51. See also Goudriaan, “Middle Dutch Meditative Lives,” 225–27.

⁸ Two series are mentioned by Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:84 (series no. 37), 323 (series no. 130) and another, possibly made for an edition of the *Devote ghetiden* that has not survived, is series 296, see note 78 below.

⁹ Discussed in the third section of this article.

¹⁰ The term “image-text diptych” is inspired by Jeffrey Hamburger’s use of a similar terminology (“text-image diptychs”) in “‘In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben’: Prints as Exemplars of Piety and the Culture of the Copy in Fifteenth-Century Germany,” in *The Woodcut in Fifteenth-Century Europe*, ed. Peter Parshall (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 2009), 160.

¹¹ Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, British Library: www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html. First two editions by Leeu (Gouda, 1483, before December 10 [ILC 1245 / ISTC no. ih00433130]) and (Antwerp, between September 18, 1484, and July 9, 1485 [ILC 1246 / ISTC no. ih00433150]). Subsequent editions by Claes Leeu (Antwerp, November 29, 1487 [ILC 1247 / ISTC no. ih00433200]) and the Collaciebroeders (Gouda, October 3, 1496 [ILC 1248 / ISTC no. ih00433250]). The edition by Jacob Bellaert (Haarlem, April 8 – August 20, 1486) is (mistakenly) cataloged under the title *Dat Leven ons Heren Jhesu Christi* (ILC 1431 / ISTC no. il00186500).

¹² Sheila D. Muller, ed., *Dutch Art: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Routledge, 2011), 929. Alfred W. Pollard, *Fine Books* (London: Methuen, 1912), 120, describes the text as “the *Devote Ghetiden* or Dutch version of the *Horae*.”

¹³ Similar meditative texts produced on the early printing press often *are* divided according to the seven canonical hours; see Goudriaan, “Middle Dutch Meditative Lives,” 221–22; for the meditative life of Christ, *Dat leven ons liefs heren Jhesus Christi*, see Dlabáčová, “Drukken en publieks-groepen,” 347–50.

¹⁴ A similar combination of meditative material derived from the four Last Things and the Life and Passion of Christ also occurs in texts such as Gerard Zerbolt Zutphen’s *De spiritualibus ascensionibus*, and comparable schemes of weekly meditation can be found in a treatise by Florens Radewijns (*Parvum et simplex exercitium*) and in the *Consuetudines* of the Brothers of Common Life. See Rudolf Th. M. van Dijk, “Tijdordening in de devote overweging,” in *Geloof, moraal en intellect in de middeleeuwen*, ed. P. Bange (Nijmegen: Centrum voor Middeleeuwse Studies Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, 1995), 147, 155–56; and van Dijk, “Toward Imageless Contemplation: Gerard Zerbolt of Zutphen as Guide for Lectio Divina,” in *Spirituality Renewed: Studies on Significant Representatives of the Modern Devotion*, ed. Hein Blommestijn, Charles Caspers, and Rijklof Hofman (Leuven: Peeters, 2003), 15–16.

¹⁵ The author also explains this in his prologue, see L. Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden’ voor de geschiedenis der leken-spiritualiteit,” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 33 (1959): 411, lines 122–27.

¹⁶ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. f4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. f4r: “Soect voer in die ghetide vanden manendach ende leest die vij ghebeden totter wapen ons heren ende dat ghebet tot allen heylighen.” On Saturday the Litany of Our Lady is added after the sixth psalm from the *Souter OLV* and on Sunday the book concludes with two more prayers to the name of Jesus and the Virgin, the latter ascribed to Saint Bernard. Brief descriptions of the structure of the text can also be found in Ina Kok, “A Rediscovered *Devote ghetiden* with Interesting Woodcuts (CA 1117),” *Quaerendo* 13 (1983): 170 (for some reason Kok announces her enumeration of the contents as follows: “The book contains the abridged texts of the hours”) and in Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties,” 135–40.

¹⁷ A small number of the prayers seems related to the prayers in Thomas a Kempis’ *Life of Christ*, but parallels are lacking: Ph. E. Webber, “A Medieval Netherlandic Prayer Cycle on the Life of Christ: Princeton University Library, Garrett Ms. 63,” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 52 (1978): 324–25. See also J. M. Willeumier-Schalijs, “Grondpatronen voor Middelnederlandse Levens van Jezus in gebeden (Ludolphus van Saksen, Jordanus van Quedlinburg e.a.),” *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde* 92 (1977): 33–60.

¹⁸ Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden,’” 411, lines 114–15: “Daerom sijn hier gheordineert seuen corte ghetyden van die geheel weke ” and line 150: “ende desen seuen ghetyden.” The same happens further on in the text, for example at the start of the texts for Monday (“ghetyde van der weeck” and “die ghetide vander doot”).

¹⁹ For example, Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden,’” 411, line 118: “Des manendaechs is die ghetide ofte inwendighe ofeninghe vander doot.” On the traditional contents and structure of books of hours, see, for example, Marieke van Delft, “Illustrations in Early Printed Books and Manuscript Illumination: The Case of a Dutch Book of Hours Printed by Wolfgang Hopyl in Paris in 1500,” in *Books in Transition at the Time of Philip the Fair: Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Late Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century Low Countries*, ed. H. Wijsman (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010), 135–36; and R. Th. M. van Dijk, “Methodologische kanttekeningen bij het onderzoek van

getijdenboeken,” in *Boeken voor de eeuwigheid: Middelerlands geestelijk proza*, ed. Th. Mertens et al. (Amsterdam: Prometheus, 1993), 210–23.

²⁰ Koen Goudriaan, “The Church and the Market: Vernacular Religious Works and the Early Printing Press in the Low Countries, 1477–1540,” in *Cultures of Religious Reading in the Late Middle Ages: Instructing the Soul, Feeding the Spirit, and Awakening the Passion*, ed. Sabrina Corbellini (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013), 108–10. Interestingly, books of hours figure less prominently among the production of the early printing press.

²¹ Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. a8r. This leaf is missing in the only extant copy of the first edition (San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989).

²² Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden’” and Reypens, “Rond een Antwerpse druk der ‘Devote ghetiden’: Het enige bekende exemplaar weer thuisgewezen en een tweede ontdekt,” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 33 (1959): 406–12. Both publications show Reypens’s great enthusiasm about the text and announce that there would be further publications on the *Devote ghetiden*, but for some reason no further publications were realized.

²³ Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden,’” 406–7.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 409, lines 65–76.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 410, lines 80–96.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 410, lines 101–9.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 410–11, lines 111–17.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 411–12, lines 149–60.

²⁹ The low number of extant copies has been observed by Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:84 and 172. Books kept as part of an institutional (convent) library were better looked after and thus had better chances of survival.

³⁰ An indication of the latter might be the remark at the end of the *Adoro Te* prayer (San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. c7v / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. c7v; see also below) telling the reader that illiterate people may recite fifteen *Pater Nosters* and *Ave Maria*’s in a kneeling position in front of the image of the Mass of Saint Gregory and gain the same amount of indulgences: “Item die niet lessen en konnen die sullen op haren knyen devotelic lesen xv pater noster ende xv ave marie voer die wapen ons heren soe verdienen sy alle dit selve oflaet.” Readers might guide non-readers. On silent prayer and images as a substitute for reading for the unlettered, see Paul Saenger, “Books of Hours and the Reading Habits of the Later Middle Ages,” in *The Culture of Print: Power and the Uses of Print in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Roger Chartier, trans. Lydia G. Cochrane (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1989), especially 151–53. See also Nigel F. Palmer, “Woodcuts for Reading: The Codicology of Fifteenth-Century Blockbooks and Woodcut Cycles,” in *The Woodcut in Fifteenth-Century Europe*, ed. Peter Parshall (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 2009), 100, on block books addressing a “dual audience of learned and unlearned.”

³¹ For an elaborate stylistic description of the woodcuts, see Möller, *Jacob Cornelisz.*, 40–41.

³² On such a function of images in books of hours, see van Delft, “Illustrations in Early Printed Books,” 136.

³³ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. d2r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. d2r: “Slaet u inwendighe oghen ende gedachten op dat uterste oerdel om dat uut alsulcke alre bitterste overdenckinge u bytter sal moghen smaken al dat in die werlt zuet schijnt te wesen.” Toward the end of the text (fol. d5r) the reader is also asked to “put this day before your eyes (desen dach settet voer u oghen).”

³⁴ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fols. d3r–d3v / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fols. d3r–d3v: “Dan overdenckt mede hoe dat een yghelick daer selff sal moeten reden gheven van al dat hy verswijmt ende ghedaen heeft, daer sullen open ghedaen werden de boeken daer alle ghedachten, woerden, ende wercken van een yghelick in ghescreven staet ende die sullen ghelesen werden in tieghenwoerdicheyt van alle die werlt. Dan salt altesamen gheopenbaert werden dat nu voer den oghen der menschen verborghen wert. . . . ende al waert sake dat ghi daer tieghen segghen ende missaken woudet, ghy en mo[d3v]ghet, want God heeftet selff ghesyen, dye enghelen, ende bysonder so ghetughet dat tiegen u die enghel die u bewaert heeft. . . . Och, och, in watte banghicheyt, schaemte, last ende confusy sullen dan staen die sondighe menschen voer den strenghe rechter.”

³⁵ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fols. d3v–d4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fols. d3v–d4r: “Wye soude dyt moghen overdencken ende nochtan sondyghen: voerwaer nyemant dan die dul ende sinneloes is.”

³⁶ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. d5r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. d5r.

³⁷ I hope to elaborate on this and other textual aspect of the *Devote ghetiden* in a separate publication.

³⁸ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. f8r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. f8r.

³⁹ There are a number of reasons to suspect a connection between Leeu and, for example, the Bruges rhetorician Anthonis de Roovere. Leeu printed his *Lof van den heylighen sacramente* in 1478 (at the end of the edition of the *Tafel des kersteliken levens*) and furthermore he produced a cycle of thirty-six poems (*refreinen*), (dated July 29–September 5, 1482), probably also written by de Roovere. For this cycle Leeu used the same woodblocks as for the *Devote ghetiden*. The only extant copy is kept in the Erlangen Universitätsbibliothek and available online: <http://gateway-bayern.de/BV039559318>. See Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:169–71. See also Johan Oosterman, “Het rekenboek geopend: De laatste dingen in de vroege Brugse rederijkerslyriek,” *Queeste: Tijdschrift over middeleeuwse letterkunde in de Nederlanden* 7 (2000): 153–59; and Arjan van Dixhoorn, *Lustige geesten: Rederijkers in de Noordelijke Nederlanden (1480–1650)* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press), esp. 99–101 (more generally on connections between rhetoricians and early printers in Holland). Leeu also printed texts such as the play *Van den drie Blinde Dansen* (1482), which was connected to the Burgundian court; see Herman Pleij, “Printing as a Long-Term Revolution,” in *Books in Transition at the Time of Philip the Fair: Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Late Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century Low Countries*, ed. H. Wijsman (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010), 296.

⁴⁰ van Dixhoorn, *Lustige geesten*, 100.

⁴¹ On this type of imagery as opposed to serial narrative imagery, see Hamburger, “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 156–57.

⁴² Kathryn M. Rudy, “Images, Rubrics, and Indulgences at the Eve of the Reformation,” in *The Authority of the Word: Reflecting on Image and Text in Northern Europe, 1400–1700*, ed. Celeste Brusati and Karl Enekel (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 467.

⁴³ Rudy, “Images, Rubrics,” 468.

⁴⁴ See note 30 above.

⁴⁵ The papal indulgences are announced in editions of the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*) (all later than the *Devote ghetiden*); see Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:173–74. She refers to a similar

association of the image with the prayer *Ave, sanctissima virgo Maria*, discussed at length by Rudy, “Images, Rubrics,” 471–76.

⁴⁶ Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:173.

⁴⁷ A few exceptions to the rule: the last prayer on Friday (*Raising of the Cross*) is considerably longer (2.5 pages) as is the third prayer on Saturday (*Longinus Piercing Christ’s Side*) and the tenth prayer (*Assumption of Mary*) on Sunday. The eleventh prayer, to the mystical winepress, not only differs in length (7 pages) but also in character and requires a separate treatment.

⁴⁸ On these editions, see Benjamin de Troeyer, *Bio-bibliographia franciscana Neerlandica saeculi XVI, Vol. I: Pars biographica* (Nieuwkoop: De Graaf, 1969), 7–13; and *Vol. II: Pars bibliographica* (Nieuwkoop: De Graaf, 1970), 105–15; and Koen Goudriaan, “Een Latijnse misverklaring met houtsneden uit 1512,” in *Liber amicorum: Afscheid van Peter van Dael*, H. Kappert et al., 53–59 (*Kunstlicht* 23 [2002]).

⁴⁹ Hamburger, “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 163, discusses the possible influence of prints on two handwritten Cistercian prayer books (ca. 1500) from a female environment and notes that “the illustrator was dependent on previous printed series, less for the iconography of specific scenes . . . than for the very idea of an expansively illustrated cycle of serial narrative of a kind that, before the advent of extended printed sequences, remained rather rare in manuscript books.”

⁵⁰ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fols. e6v–e7r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fols. e6v–e7r.

⁵¹ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fols. p3v–p4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fols. p3v–p4r.

⁵² San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fols. s1v–s2r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fols. s1v–s2r.

⁵³ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. e7r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. e7r: “O coninc der coninghen, o heer der heren, o prins der princen, enighe ghebenedide zoen Goods, ghedanct ende ghebenedijt moet ghi wesen, nu ende altoes ende ewelic sonder eynde voer die goedertieren vertoninghe dat ghij u vrolike gheboorte den herderen bi enen enghel, den heylighen dryen coninghen in eenre schoenre, wonderliker sterren hebt willen openbaren. . . . ende totter steden uwer gheboerten met ghiften ende gaven hebt doen comen.”

⁵⁴ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. e7r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. e7r: “Ic bid u, soete here Ihesu Christe, doer die diepe, wonderlike oetmoedicheyt die ghi ons bewesen hebt ende mitten exempelen gheleert hebt dat ghi van soe armen moeder in so stinkenden snoden stal der beesten alsulcken eerliken, rijcken, machtighen coninghen niet ontsien en hebt te openbaren die daer met soe groten costen, met soe vuerighen begheerten, met soe waerdighen offerhanden als enen sonderlinghen coninck quamen om an te beden.”

⁵⁵ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. p4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. p4r: “Ic danc u uten binnensten mijns herten o over goede god des deerliken hanghens dat ghi an drie plompe naghelen drie uren lanc levende hinct aenden cruce.”

⁵⁶ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. p4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. p4r.

⁵⁷ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. p4r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. p4r: “Ende also als ghi u moeder sint Jan bevaelt te bewaren, also beveelt mi lieve heer uwer liever moeder.”

⁵⁸ Luke 23:46; John 13:23.

⁵⁹ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. s2r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. s2r: “Ic danc u ende ic ghebenedy u, over goede heer Ihesu Christe, voer die grote ende onsprekelijke goedertierenheyt die ghi beweest dien twee lieven discipulen die des selven daechs doen ghi verresen waert ghinghen na een casteel gheheten Emaus, sprekende ende vertellende met groter medeliden ende mit droefenis dat du onnosel heer gheschiet was in dien tyden in Iherusalem . . . openbarende u hen inder ghedaenten eens pellegrims, verclarende ende beduende hen die scriftueren, hoe dat ghi liden most ende also gaen inder glorien uwes vaders.”

⁶⁰ San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989, fol. s2r / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. s2r

⁶¹ Reypens, “Belang der ‘Devote ghetiden,’” 410, lines 101–9.

⁶² Walter S. Melion, “Introduction: Meditative Images and the Psychology of Soul,” in *Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, ed. Walter S. Melion and R. L. Falkenburg (Turnhout: Brepols, 2007), 1–36. The following is based on the theory of soul formation discussed on pp. 2–3.

⁶³ The series made for the *Devote ghetiden* was, for example, reused by Leeu and other printers in editions of the monumental *Boeck vanden leven Ihesu Christi*, where the images, even to the modern reader, function as illustrations very closely related to the text. See, for example, Barbara G. Lane, “The Genesis Woodcuts of a Dutch Adaptation of the *Vita Christi*,” in *The Early Illustrated Book: Essays in Honor of Lessing J. Rosenwald*, ed. Sandra Hindman and Lessing J. Rosenwald (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982), 81–82, who notes the following about one of the reused woodcuts: “This passage is depicted literally in both the 1487 and 1488 versions, in which the angel’s sword bursts into flame. Although the artist may have known similar flaming swords in some of the Dutch History Bibles, he seems to have adapted them here to the text at hand.” Both Kok and Oosterman argue that the author (probably Anthonis de Roovere) of the thirty-six poems on the Life of Christ printed by Leeu knew the *Devote ghetiden* woodcuts: Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:169; and Oosterman, “Het rekenboek geopend,” 157. The indications for connections of the *Devote ghetiden* to the rhetorician’s milieu (see note 39 above) make this even more plausible.

⁶⁴ Examples of Middle Dutch religious texts “moving” from print to manuscript are discussed in, for example, Youri Desplenter, “*Sinte Franciscus Souter: Een populaire postincunabel met een handschrift vervolledigd*,” *Spiegel der Letteren* 49 (2007): 231–46; and W. F. Scheepsma, “*Het Boecxken der passien: Van handschrift naar druk in geestelijke kringen*,” *Spiegel der letteren* 49 (2007): 213–30. Manuscript illumination based on prints is discussed in, for example, James Marrow, “A Book of Hours from the Circle of the Master of the Berlin Passion: Notes on the Relationship between Fifteenth-Century Manuscript Illumination and Printmaking in the Rhenish Lowlands,” *Art Bulletin* 60 (1978): 590–616; and Klara H. Broekhuijsen, “The Bezborodko Masters and the Use of Print,” in *The Golden Age of Dutch Manuscript Painting*, ed. H. L. M. Defoer, A. S. Korteweg, and W. C. M. Wüstefeld (Stuttgart: Belser Verlag, 1989), 403–12.

⁶⁵ The manuscripts are The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. BPH 79 [AA5809] (ca. 1500) (see Hinke Bakker, “Fifteenth-century Book Illustrations and Their Makers: The Relation of a Cycle of Woodcut Illustrations of the Life of Christ with a Series of Painted Miniatures in a Handwritten Book of Prayers,” in *Lay Bibles in Europe 1450–1800*, ed. M. Lamberigts and A. A. den Hollander [Leuven: University Press/Peeters, 2006], 38); Brussels, Royal Library, Ms. IV 1195 (ca. 1520); The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 135 E 19 (ca. 1490–1500) (see Klara H. Broekhuijsen, *The Masters of the Dark Eyes: Late Medieval Manuscript Painting in Holland* [Turnhout: Brepols, 2009], cat. 34); London,

British Library, Add. Ms. 20729 (16th c.); Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ms. Dutch f. 1 (end 15th c.); Princeton, University Library, Garrett Ms. 63 (early 16th c.); Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909 (after ca. 1485) (see Ursula Weekes, *Early Engravers and Their Public: The Master of the Berlin Passion and Manuscripts from Convents in the Rhine-Maas Region, ca. 1450–1500* [Turnhout: Miller, 2004], cat. 33).

⁶⁶ Webber, “A Medieval Netherlandic Prayer Cycle.”

⁶⁷ For the identification, see Alain Arnould, *De la production de miniatures de Cornelia van Wulfschkercke au couvent des carmélites de Sion à Bruges* (Brussels: Vicariat Général des Dominicains, 1998).

⁶⁸ As opposed to the three other manuscripts Webber knew: Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909; Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ms. Dutch f 1; and Brussels, Royal Library, Ms. IV 1195 (Webber, “A Medieval Netherlandic Prayer Cycle,” 326). In a footnote to his later article, Ph. E. Webber, “Varieties of Popular Piety Suggested by Netherlandic Vita Christi Prayer Cycles,” *Ons Geestelijk Erf* 64 (1990): n. 5, also mentions London, British Library, Add. Ms. 20729 and The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 135 E 19.

⁶⁹ Oxford, Bodleian Library, Ms. Dutch f. 1, contains the prayers for Monday, Tuesday, and part of the prayers for Wednesday; the last prayer is the prayer accompanying *Mary Magdalene Anointing Christ* (San Marino, Calif., Huntington Library, inv. 100989 / Leiden, University Library, inv. 1498 F 1, fol. h3r) (see Webber, “A Medieval Netherlandic Prayer Cycle,” 322). London, British Library, Add. Ms. 20729, contains the complete *Devote ghetiden* (see Karel de Flou and Edw. Gailliard, “Beschrijvingen van Middelnederlandsche en andere handschriften die in Engeland bewaard worden,” *Verslagen en mededelingen van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie voor Taal- en Letterkunde* [1896]: 181–87, no. 24); The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. BPH 79 and The Hague, Royal Library, Ms. 135 E 19 also include the prayers to the Trinity and the psalms from the Psalter of Our Lady (*Souter OLV*), ordered according to the days of the week. Brussels, Royal Library, Ms. IV 1195 contains the meditative texts (ordered according to the days of the week) and Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Ms. Series Nova 12909 starts with the last (seventh) prayer to the Trinity and contains the prayer cycle.

⁷⁰ The Vienna manuscript belonged to the Rooklooster in the seventeenth century and may have been made for the community, but this is not certain; see Weekes, *Early Engravers*, 320.

⁷¹ It is not my intention to provide a full investigation into the origin of and relations between the various series of pictorial compositions and the texts in all prints and manuscripts. This does not fit within the scope of this article and would require a separate study.

⁷² *ILC* 1431 / *ISTC* no. il00186500 (Haarlem, April 8 – August 20, 1486). One extant copy: Amsterdam, University Library, Inc. 421.

⁷³ On the series and its relationship in composition to Leeu’s series and engravings by van Meckenen, see Rosier, “Gheraert Leeus illustraties,” esp. 150–51. There is a full description in Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:378–83.

⁷⁴ London, British Library, Add. Ms. 20729. For a detailed description of this manuscript, usually cataloged as a “prayer book” or “manual of prayers,” see de Flou and Gailliard, “Beschrijvingen,” no. 24.

⁷⁵ De Flou and Gailliard, “Beschrijvingen,” 181.

⁷⁶ Broekhuijsen, *The Masters of the Dark Eyes*, esp. 16–17 and cat. 34.

⁷⁷ The latter manuscript does contain a number of texts before the “weekly exercise” starts on fol. 30r. One of them is discussed by Klara H. Broekhuijsen, “Bloemen voor Anna: Een bijzondere

verluchtingencyclus in gebeden tot de heilige Anna,” in *Manuscripten en miniature: Studies aangeboden aan Anne S. Korteweg bij haar afscheid van de Koninklijke Bibliotheek*, ed. J. Biemans, K. van der Hoek, K. M. Rudy, and E. van der Vlist (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 2007) and suggests a devotion to Saint Anne.

⁷⁸ Bakker, “Fifteenth-century Book Illustrations.” The series is described in Kok, *Woodcuts in Incunabula*, 1:587–91 (series no. 296). The series was never used completely in an edition. The fact that the series was used as an example for manuscript illumination for texts of the *Devotieghetiden* and contains the illustrational program of this text may suggest that this series was originally cut for an edition of this text. See note 8 above.

⁷⁹ On this trend in late medieval passion devotion, see, for example, Caroline Walker Bynum, *Wonderful Blood: Theology and Practice in Late Medieval Northern Germany and Beyond* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007).

⁸⁰ Daughter of Petrus Bogaerts de Leffinge (parchment leaf pasted to fol. 1v: “Oretis pro honesta matrona Anna Geperts filia Petri Bogaerts de leffinge que expensas huius libri dedit et scriptori multa prestitit que obiit circa festum Anthonii abbatis M.[cc]cc.Lxxv”).

⁸¹ The genesis of the manuscript is described in detail by Weekes, *Early Engravers*, 89–93.

⁸² Weekes, *Early Engravers*, esp. 88–97. See also Ph. E. Webber, “Denuo ad fonts: Un(der)studied Analogues of Previously Reported Visual and Textual Material in Vita Christi Devotional Cycles,” in *Miscellanea Neerlandica: Opstellen voor Dr. Jan Deschamps ter gelegenheid van zijn zeventigste verjaardag*, vol. 1, ed. E. Cockx-Indestege and F. Hendrickx (Louvain: Peeters, 1987), 465–77; and Ph. E. Webber, “Integration of Literary and Visual Imagery in Netherlandic Vita Christi Prayer Cycles,” *Manuscripta* 26 (1982): 90–99.

⁸³ See Fritz Oskar Schuppisser, “Copper Engravings of the ‘Mass Production’ Illustrating Netherlandish Prayer Manuscripts,” in *Masters and Miniatures: Proceedings of the Congress on Medieval Manuscript Illumination in the Northern Netherlands (Utrecht, 10–13 December 1989)*, ed. Koert van der Horst and Johann-Christian Klamt (Doornspijk: Davaco Publishers, 1991), 395. This is not surprising as the engravers and producers of block books such as the *Biblia pauperum* drew on common visual sources; see Weekes, *Early Engravers*, 93–94.

⁸⁴ Oxford, Ms. BL, Dutch f 1 and Brussel, Ms. KB, IV 1195.

⁸⁵ On the use of visual imagination in Christocentric prayer, see Webber, “Varieties of Popular Piety,” 214–19. On the *Boeck vanden leven Jhesu Christi*, see Rudolf Th. M. van Dijk, “Toward Imageless Contemplation: Gerard Zerbolt of Zutphen as Guide for Lectio Divina,” in *Spirituality Renewed: Studies on Significant Representatives of the Modern Devotion*, ed. Hein Blommestijn, Charles Caspers, and Rijcklof Hofman (Leuven: Peeters, 2003), 3–7.

⁸⁶ Webber, “Varieties of Popular Piety,” 205: “Obvious as the point may seem, it is worth noting that these prayers were created for use within religious communities.”

⁸⁷ A female readership is often associated with this and similar illustrated prayer cycles; see Webber, “Varieties of Popular Piety,” 207; Weekes, *Early Engravers*, 132–43; Hamburger, “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 162.

⁸⁸ The expectation among scholars that members of *Devotio Moderna* made extensive use of the printing press were extremely high, which initially resulted in a self-fulfilling prophecy; see Koen Goudriaan, “The Devotio Moderna and the Printing Press (circa 1475–1540),” *Church History and Religious Culture* 93 (2013): 584–91. See also Pleij, “Printing as a Long-Term Revolution,” 290; and Pleij, “De betekenis van de beginnende drukpers voor de ontwikkeling van de Nederlandse literatuur in Noord en Zuid,” *Spektator* 21 (1992): 227–63. See also van Dijk, “Toward Imageless

Contemplation,” 78.

⁸⁹ Goudriaan, “The Devotio Moderna,” especially 591–606. For manuscripts, see Thomas Kock, *Die Buchkultur der Devotio moderna: Handschriftenproduktion, Literaturversorgung und Bibliotheksaufbau im Zeitalter des Medienwechsels* (Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 1999).

⁹⁰ Koen Goudriaan, “The Franciscans, the Laity and the Printing Press,” in Koen Goudriaan, *Piety in Practice and Print: Essays on the Late Medieval Religious Landscape*, ed. Anna Dlabáčová and Ad Tervoort (Hilversum: Verloren, 2016), 279, 283–88.

⁹¹ On the lack of strategy by the Church and new approaches toward the massive production of printed religious texts, see Goudriaan, “The Church and the Market,” esp. 101–15. In the case of meditative texts on the Life of Christ research has clearly shown that old texts were not satisfactory and that new texts were developed for the printing press; see Goudriaan, “Middle Dutch Meditative Lives,” and Dlabáčová, “Drukken en publieksgroepen.”

⁹² On printers in Antwerp within the guild, see, for example, Jan van der Stock, *Printing Images in Antwerp: The Introduction of Printmaking in a City, Fifteenth Century to 1585* (Rotterdam: Sound & Vision, 1998), 29, 110.

⁹³ For example Dan Chalmer Ewing, “The Paintings and Drawings of Jan de Beer” (PhD diss., University of Michigan, 1978), 21–26; and A.-L. van Bruaene, “A wonderfull tryumpfe, for the wynnynng of a pryse’: Guilds, Ritual, Theater, and the Urban Network in the Southern Low Countries, ca. 1450–1650,” *Renaissance Quarterly* 59 (2006): 374–405.

⁹⁴ Hamburger, “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 169. One of the manuscripts also contains a prayer cycle divided over the days of the week (181–83).

⁹⁵ See Hamburger, “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 160, who notes on the prayer books he discusses that “very few German prayer books, even the most elaborately illustrated, offer a comparably rich panopticum of the life of Christ.”

⁹⁶ For example, van Delft, “Illustrations in Early Printed Books,” 134.

⁹⁷ Hamburger points to the Heggbach altarpiece: “In gebeden vnd in bilden geschriben,” 181–83. On the illumination in the London manuscript, see J. P. Gumbert, *The Dutch and Their Books in the Manuscript Age* (London: The British Library, 1990), n. 63.

⁹⁸ See Jan van der Stock, “Canon in Context: Consumption of Early Netherlandish Images in the Fifteenth and the First Half of the Sixteenth Centuries,” in *Rogier van der Weyden in Context: Papers Presented at the Seventeenth Symposium for the Study of Underdrawing and Technology in Painting, Held in Leuven, 22–24 October 2009*, ed. Lorne Campbell, Jan van der Stock, Catherine Reynolds, and Lieve Watteuw (Paris: Peeters, 2012), esp. 3–7.

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