

EVANGELIORUM  
FRAGMENTA

MS. SAEC. IX.



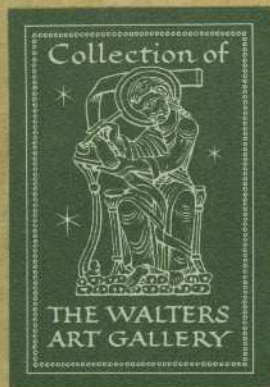
WALTERS  
W. 751

W. 751.10

Franklin, Samson

ix 16 cont.

A. Chester Beatty

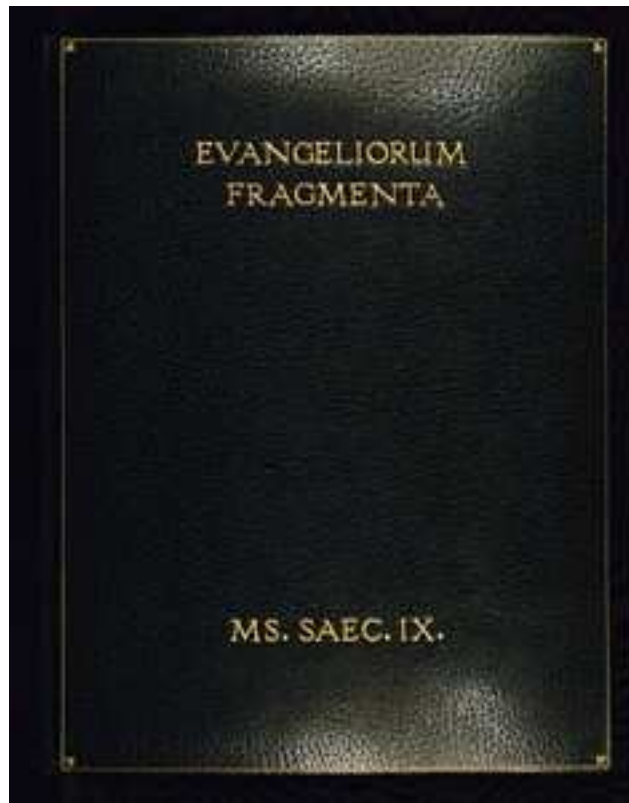


W. 751





A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.751, Corvey Gospel fragment  
Title: Gospel fragment



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<b>Shelf mark</b>	Walters Art Museum Ms. W.751
<b>Descriptive Title</b>	Corvey Gospel fragment
<b>Text title</b>	Gospel fragment
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This manuscript consists of four folios from a Gospel Book that was likely made at the monastery of Corvey in Western Germany during the last quarter of the tenth century. Dating to the reign of Otto I, these pages are a magnificent example of early Ottonian manuscript illumination. The heavily ornamented pages, which introduce the Gospels of Luke and John, shine with gold and jewel-like colors against dyed purple grounds. These pages combine monumental classicizing square capitals on purple grounds with rich and complex interlace. This fragment contains the opening pages of Luke (fols. 93-94) and John (fols. 137-138) that were originally part of Rheims, Bibliothèque Municipale, Ms. 10, a Gospel Book originally owned by the Chapter Library of the Cathedral of Rheims until it was confiscated, along with the rest of the cathedral's manuscripts, during the French Revolution. Related manuscripts include Pierpont Morgan Library Ms. M. 755 and New York Public Library Ms. 1.</p>
<b>Date</b>	Third quarter of the 10th century CE
<b>Origin</b>	Corvey, Germany
<b>Form</b>	Book
<b>Genre</b>	Scriptural
<b>Language</b>	The primary language in this manuscript is Latin.
<b>Support material</b>	<p>Parchment</p> <p>Thick, with suede surface on flesh side</p>
<b>Extent</b>	<p>Foliation: iii+4+ii</p> <p>Two sets of foliation: seventeenth or eighteenth-century ink foliation upper right corners (fols. 93, 94, 137, and 138); modern pencil foliation very top right corner which reflect current fragmentary condition</p>
<b>Collation</b>	Formula: iii, 1(2), 2(2), ii

Catchwords: None

Signatures: None

Comments: Fragment consists of two bifolia

**Dimensions** 24.2 cm wide by 31.2 cm high

**Written surface** 19.7 cm wide by 25.3 cm high

**Layout** Columns: 1  
Ruled lines: 27  
Hard point ruling

**Contents** *fols. 1v - 4v:*  
*Title:* Gospel fragment  
*Incipit:* Inicium sancti evangelii secundum Lucam  
*Text note:* Incomplete; only contains incipit pages for Luke, fols. 1v-2v; incipits for John, fols. 3v-4v  
*Decoration note:* All illumination consists of heavily decorated incipit text in gold letters on purple ground within interlace-filled frames, with letters ranging from one to twenty-two lines in height; large initial pages for Luke, fol. 2r, and John, fol. 4r, with intertwining letters decorated with knotwork and interlaced foliate designs; "Inicium" page for John, fol. 3v, has interlace cross with roundels containing birds in four quadrants, and roundels with beasts in corners; palette of gold, purple, yellow, red, blue, lavender, and green

**Decoration** *fol. 1v:*  
*Title:* Frontispiece for the Gospel of Luke  
*Form:* Full-page miniature  
*Text:* Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke  
*fol. 2r:*  
*Title:* Incipit page for the Gospel of Luke  
*Form:* Full-page miniature  
*Text:* Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke  
*fol. 2v:*  
*Title:* Decorated page  
*Form:* Full-page miniature

*Text:* Continuation of the incipit of the Gospel of St. Luke

*fol. 3v:*

*Title:* Frontispiece for the Gospel of St. John

*Form:* Full-page miniature

*Text:* Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. John

*fol. 4r:*

*Title:* Incipit page for the Gospel of St. John

*Form:* Full-page miniature

*Text:* Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. John

*fol. 4v:*

*Title:* Decorated page

*Form:* Full-page miniature

*Text:* Continuation of the incipit of the Gospel of St. John

## **Binding**

The binding is not original.

Modern English crushed dark blue morocco by W.H. Smith and Son, first half of the twentieth century; gold tooled outer fillet and lettering, which read "EVANGELIORUM FRAGMENTA MS. SAEC. IX;" inside: wide borders of morocco with triple fillet gold tooled; vellum doublure and flyleaves

## **Provenance**

Written in the Monastery of Corvey on the Weser River in Germany ca. 940-975, during the reign of Otto I, based on style and paleography

Originally part of a Gospel Book belonging to the Chapter Library of the Cathedral of Rheims until the French Revolution, now Ms. 10 in the Rheims Municipal Library

Sir Thomas Phillips, London, ca. 1855 (Ms. 14122), noted on bottom of fol. 1r

A. Chester Beatty, acquired privately from Phillips collection in December, 1920

## **Acquisition**

Walters Art Museum, Oct. 1952, from Mrs. Chester Beatty through Maggs Brothers

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Randall, Lillian M.C. Illuminated Manuscripts: Masterpieces in Miniature. Baltimore: Walters Art Gallery, 1984, pl. 1.



**Contributors**

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*Cataloger:* Walters Art Museum curatorial staff and researchers since 1934

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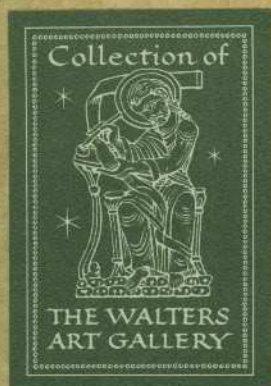
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W. 751.10

Franklin, Simon

ix 16 cont.

A. Chester Beatty



W. 751











BIBLIOTHÈQUE SAINT-GENEVIÈVE

Paris, le 8 mars 1929.

Mon cher collègue

Excusez-moi de ne pas avoir répondu plus tôt à votre aimable lettre du mois de janvier, mais j'ai été tellement tourmenté par la santé de ma mère que j'ai dû négliger ma correspondance. Je suis heureusement plus rassuré à présent.

En ce qui concerne les fragments d'évangélaire dont vous m'avez envoyé les reproductions, voici mon avis :

1<sup>o</sup>) Je le date plutôt de la fin du IX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Il y a encore assez de finesse dans les entrelacs et on sent une main habile dans l'ensemble.

2<sup>o</sup>) L'art de ce feuillet de rattachement à l'école dite Franco-Saxonne (voy. mes planches XCIII - CX) : entrelacs dans les encadrements généraux, carrés ou mi-décimés aux angles, disposition générale des initiales (surtout le grand I du début de St Jean) et des éléments décoratifs.



BIBLIOTHEQUE SAINT-GENEVIÈVE

Je ne vois rien qui rappelle l'école De Metz. Dans  
l'autre, ce n'est pas un spécimen pur, de la brillante  
époque <sup>(milieu 12<sup>e</sup> s.)</sup> de l'école franco-saxonne dont le siège était  
dans le nord, sans doute dans l'Artois. Il y a quelques  
motifs venant d'ailleurs, mais peu de chose. Dans  
l'ensemble c'est le style septentrional. Et me paraît  
impossible de localiser exactement le manuscrit d'où ont  
été arrachés ces fragments.

J'attire votre attention sur les sigles de la première  
page de St Jean. Ils font songer aux sigles merovingiens  
et carolingiens qu'on a trouvés dans les sépultures de  
régions du nord.

Voilà tout ce que je puis vous dire -

J'ai bien regretté de vous avoir manqué, lors de  
votre dernier passage à Paris. J'espère qu'une autre fois  
je serai plus heureux.

J'attends votre livre sur la miniature anglaise avec  
la plus vive impatience.

Veuillez croire, mon cher collègue, à mes senti-  
ments très sincèrement dévoués

to Eric Millar

A. Coines  
administrateur



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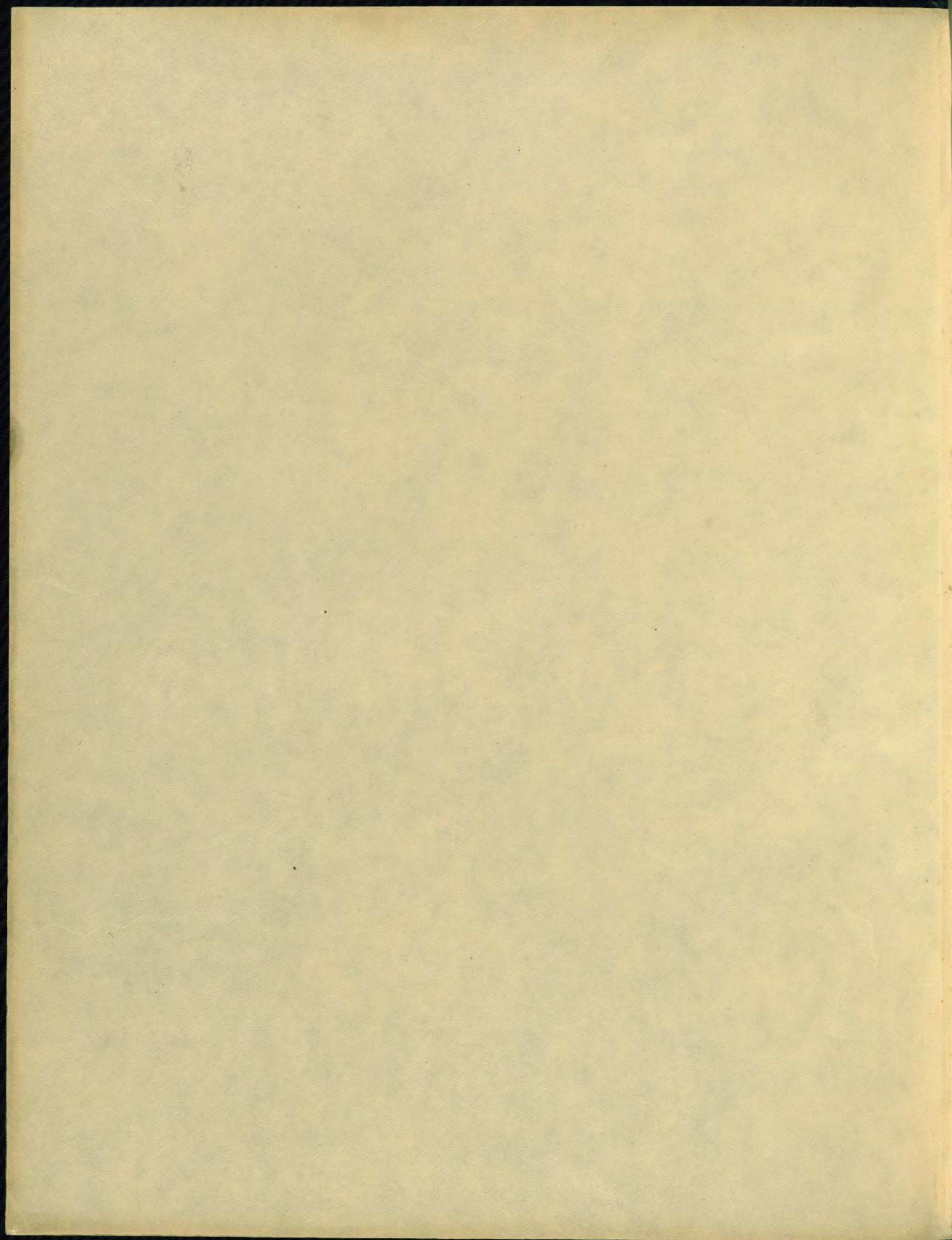
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Phillips MS  
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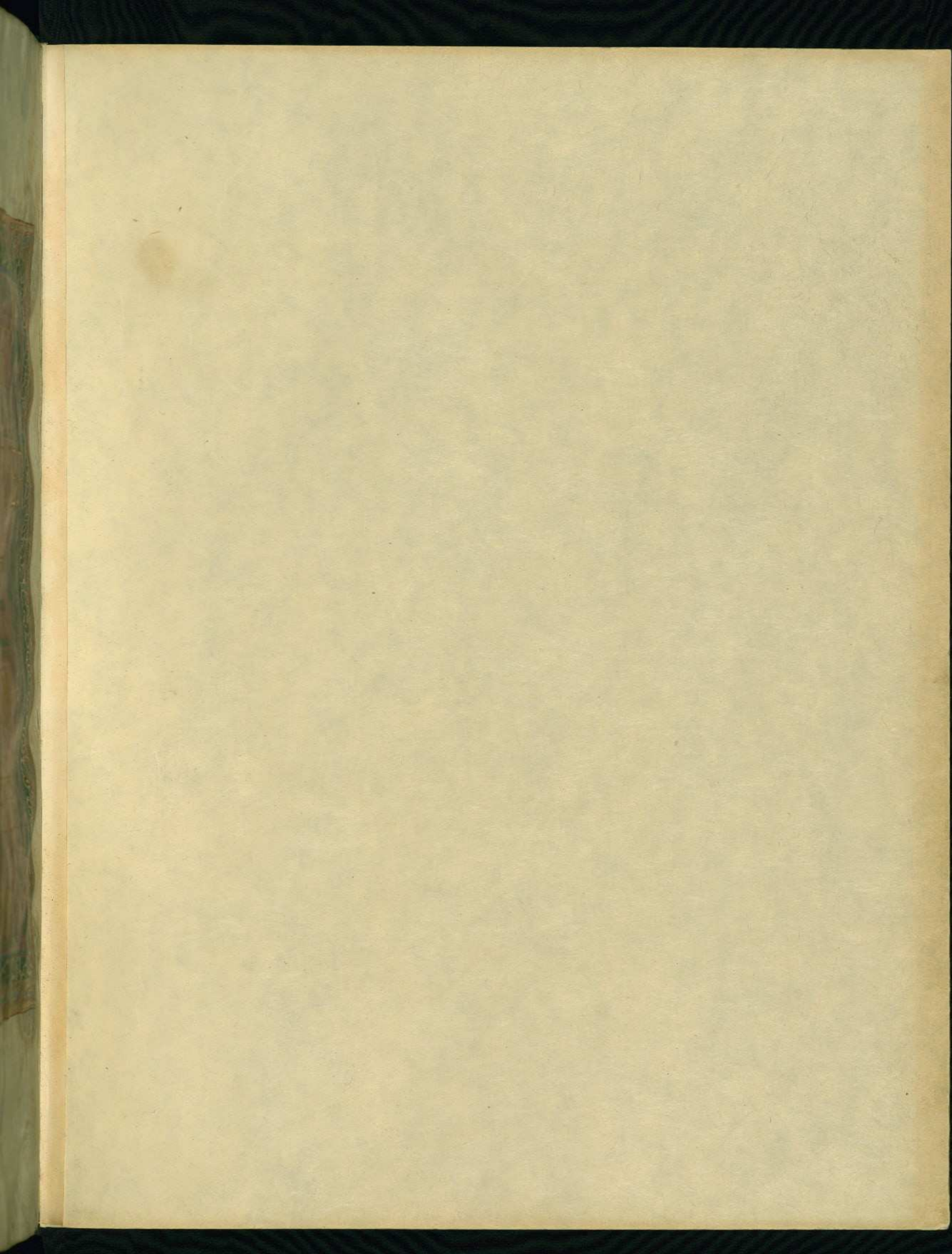




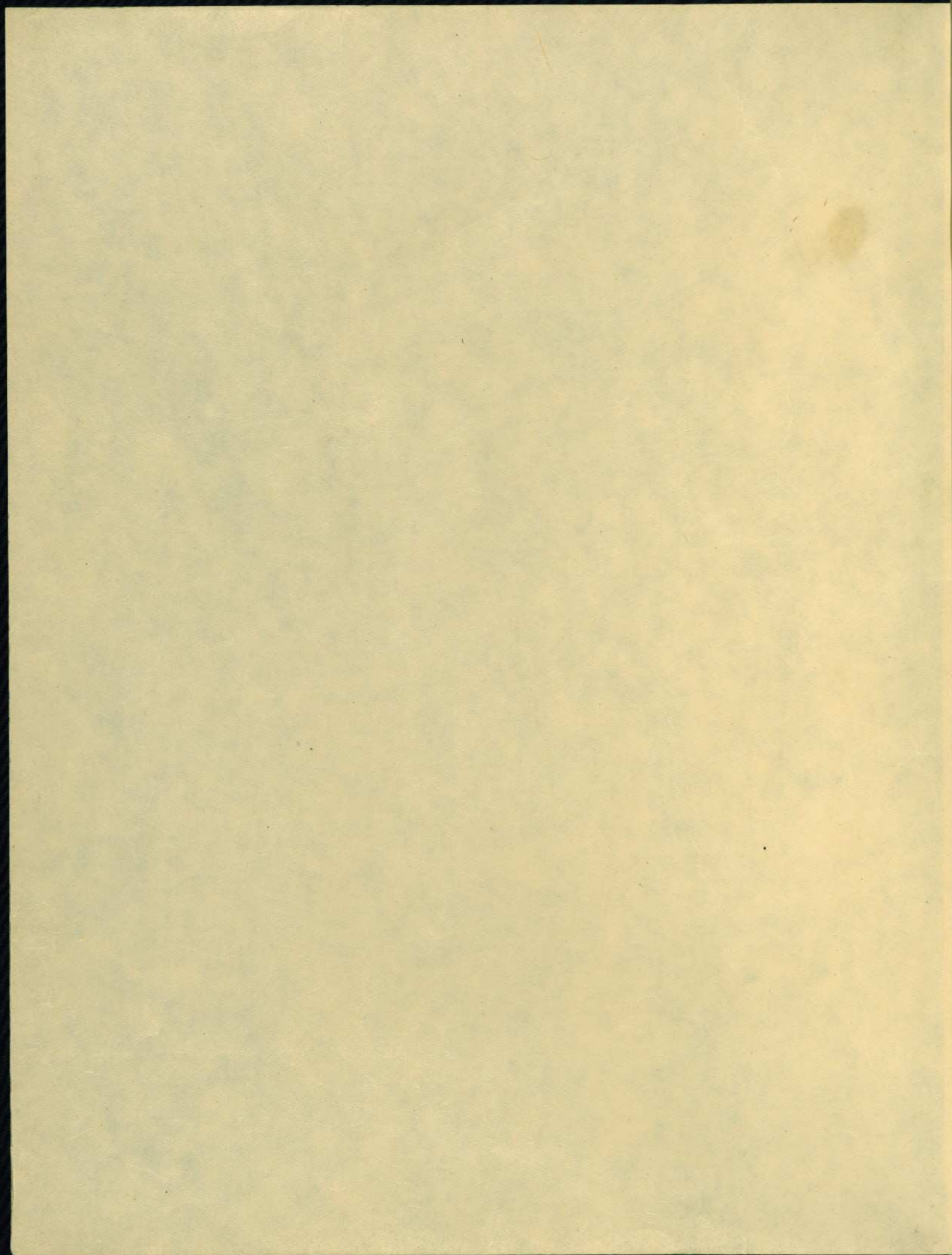


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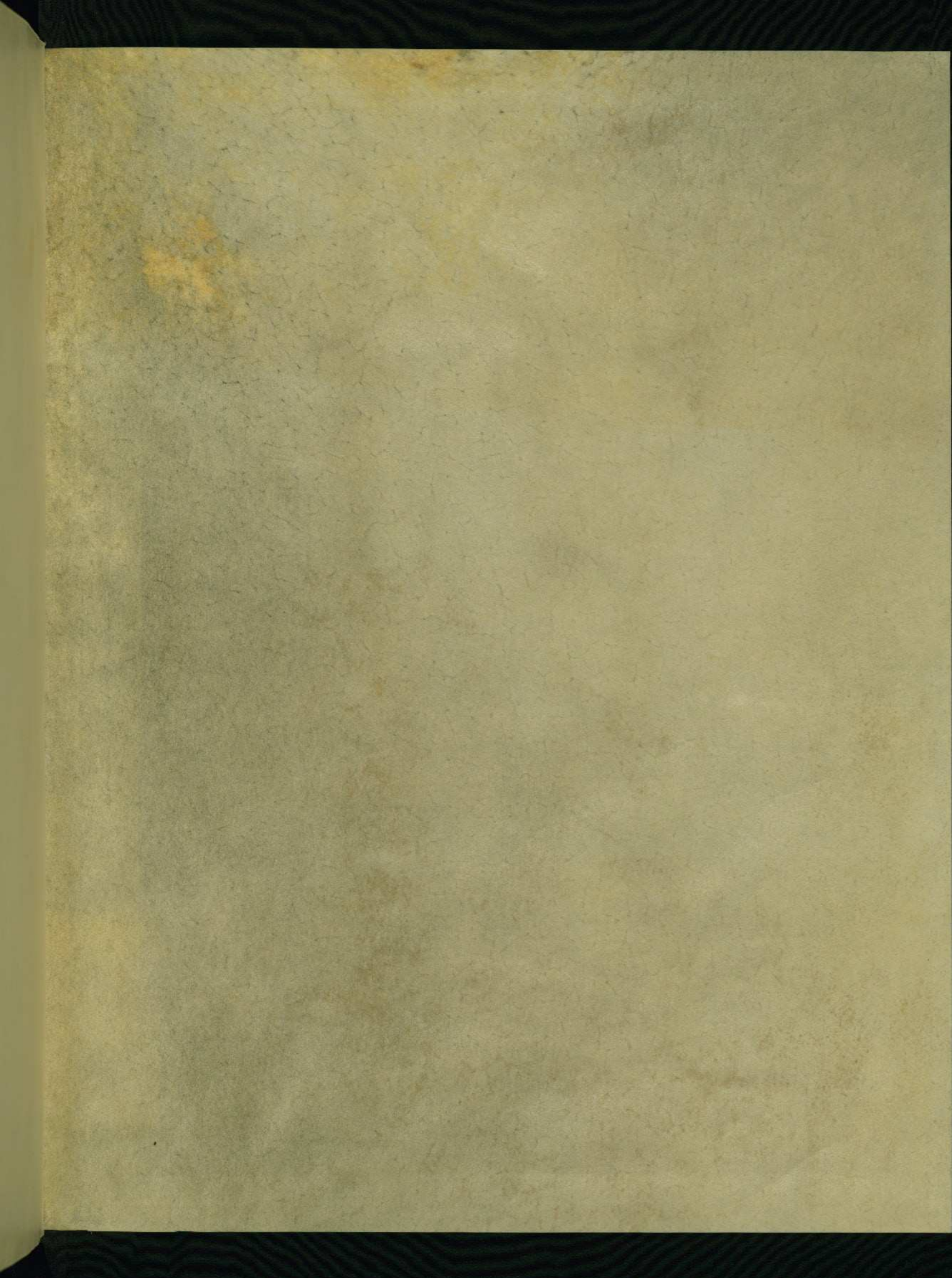




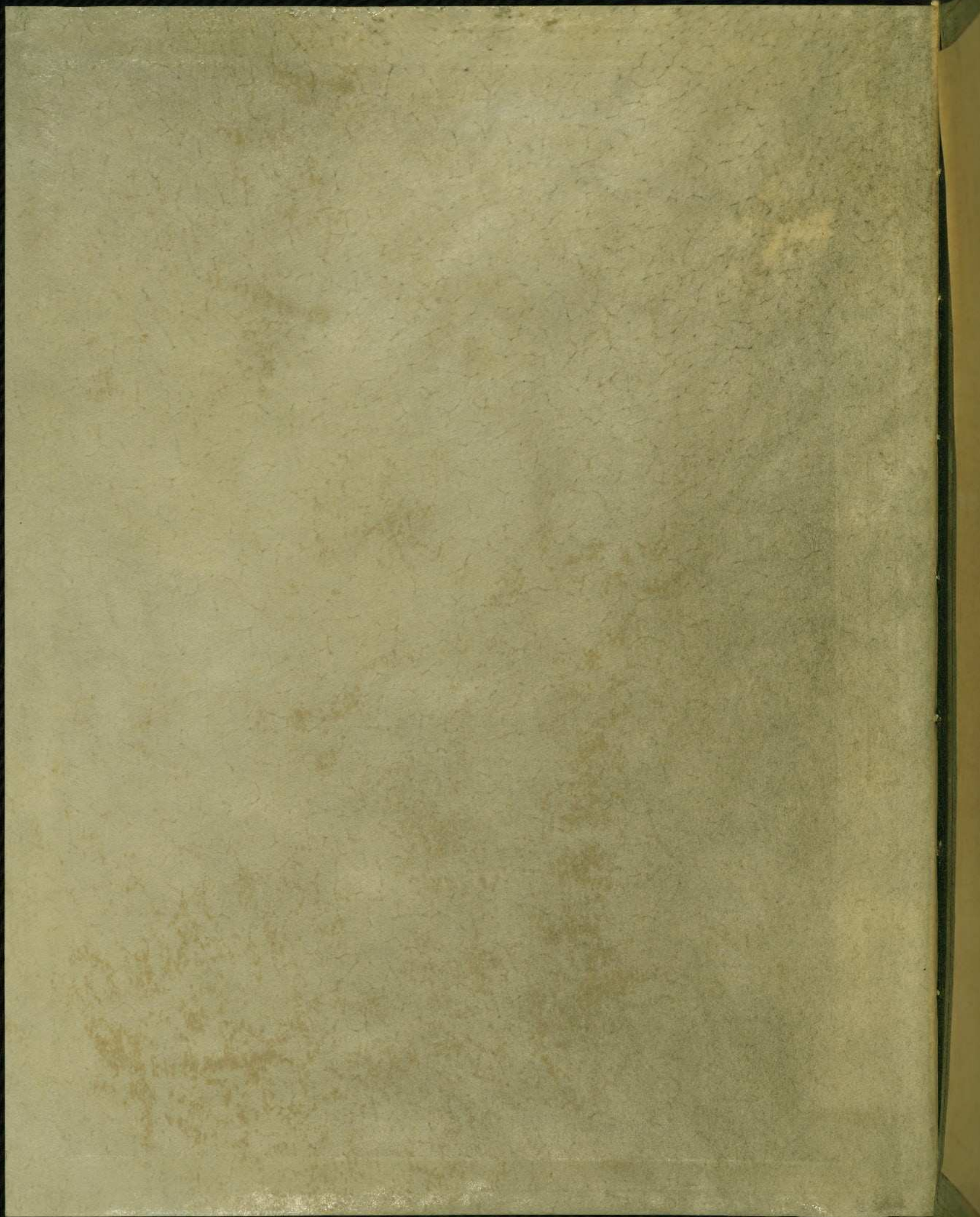








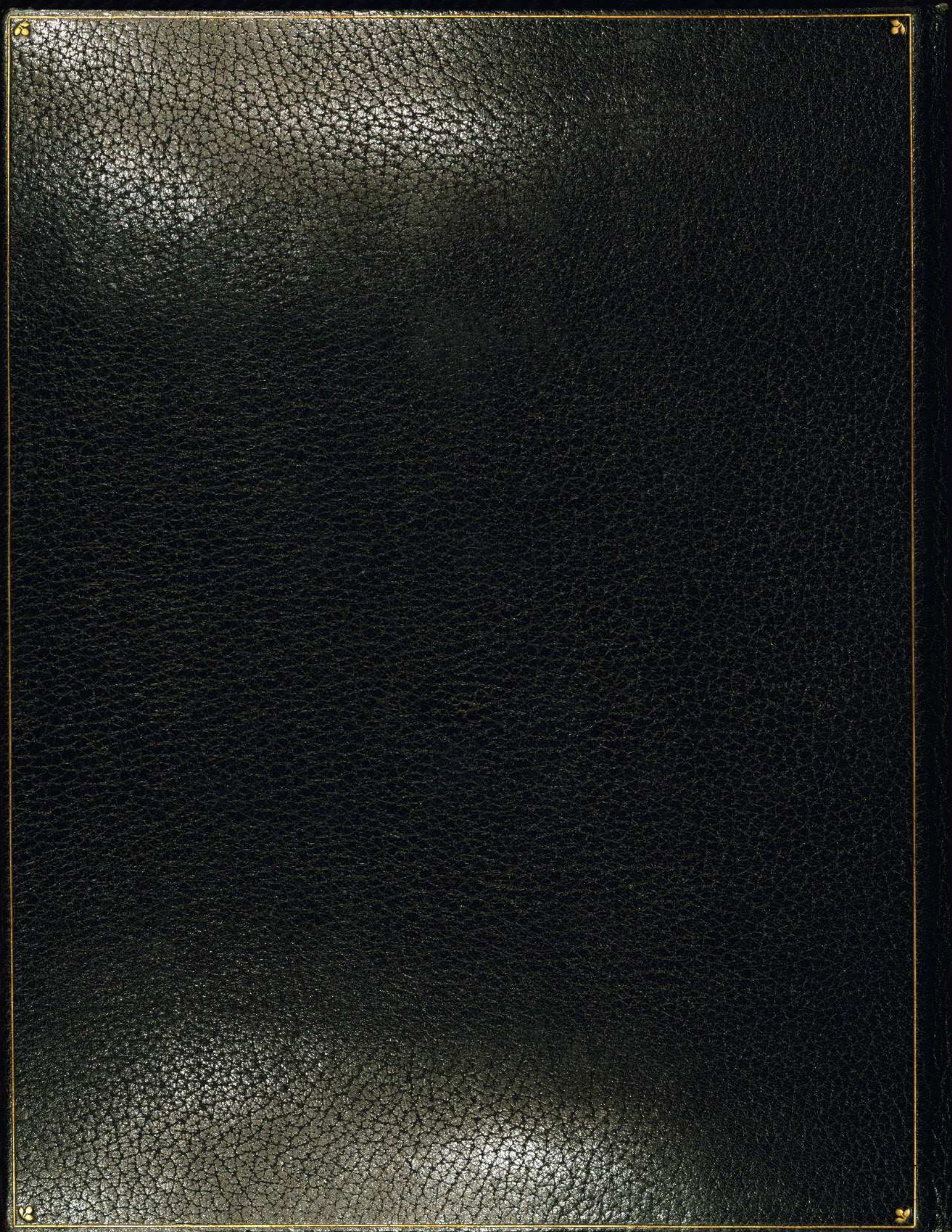






acquired Oct. 3, 1952























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