A digital facsimile of selections from Walters Ms. W.842, Chapter 53 of the Book of Isaiah
Title: Book of Isaiah 53:1-12

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This English manuscript was made in the nineteenth century, using an extremely fine parchment. It contains the fifty-third chapter of the Book of Isaiah, in English translation. The small book is composed of eight folios written and decorated on the rectos, leaving the versos blank. Script and decoration suggest that the book was conceived to imitate the style of fourteenth- or fifteenth-century French illumination. The creators, Eleanor Taylor and James Slie, signed the book on the title page, and declared their intended revival of this tradition. Each folio is embellished with border decoration showing narratives of Christ's life, as well as zoomorphic and foliate motifs in a palette of blue, red, and gold leaf. The contemporary binding is painted with a coat of arms inscribed with the motto "GANG WARILY" (proceed with caution). Although the manuscript has traditionally been considered to be of English origin, the armorial shield points to a Scottish use.

Date
19th century CE

Origin
England

Scribe
As-written name: Eleanor Taylor

Scribe
As-written name: James Slie

Form
Book

Genre
Scriptural

Language
The primary language in this manuscript is English.

Support material
Parchment

Extent
Foliation: ii+8+ii
White silk used as pastedowns, as well as the very first and very last flyleaves; second and third flyleaves are paper;
each parchment folio is preceded by tissue paper; foliation in pencil upper right corners, rectos

Collation

Formula: Undetermined

Comments: Each folio and its accompanying tissue paper held within a small sleeve of heavy paper, which is attached to the spine

Dimensions 18.8 cm wide by 24.6 cm high

Written surface 10.3 cm wide by 15.3 cm high

Layout

Columns: 1
Ruled lines: 10-12
Ruled in red ink

Contents fols. 1r - 8r:

Title: Book of Isaiah 53:1-12
Scribes: Eleanor Taylor; James Slie
Incipit: Who hast believed our report

Contents: Complete text of the fifty third chapter of the book of Isaiah; fol. 1r: title page, "The fifty third chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah illuminated in the style of the XIV century by Eleanor Taylor and James Slie"; fols. 2r-8r: Isaiah 53:1-12

Hand note: Imitative Gothic script

Decoration note: Title page written in gold, red, blue and black ink; blue and red ground for the three lines at the beginning; border decoration throughout the book with narrative scenes and foliate ornament; three major decorated initials (3 lines) and smaller initials (1 line) for divisions of the text; text in black ink; initials in red ink for nouns and pronouns referring to the Lord; it is likely that one of the manuscript's creators was the scribe, and one the artist, and due to the ornate illumination of Eleanor Taylor's name on the title page, it is possible that she was the artist

Decoration fol. 2r:

Title: Enthroned Christ; Holy Family; David playing the harp
Form: Historiated margin
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 3r:
Title: Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane; Beast interlace; Flight into Egypt
Form: Historiated margin
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 4r:
Title: Good shepherd
Form: Marginal medallion
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 5r:
Title: Christ before Pilate
Form: Border illumination
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 6r:
Title: Crucifixion; Veronica
Form: Marginal medallions
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 7r:
Title: Resurrection
Form: Historiated margin
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

fol. 8r:
Title: Christ in Heaven; Agnus Dei in quatrefoil
Form: Historiated margins
Text: Book of Isaiah, Chapter 53

Binding
The binding is original.

Nineteenth-century white leather binding with gilt edges; upper board decorated with a coat of arms with gold and red undulating stripes, a lion's head and crown; the coat of arms is inscribed with the motto "GANG WARILY" (proceed with caution); the heraldry belongs to the Scottish Drummond clan
Provenance Made in the nineteenth century by Eleanor Taylor and James Slie; signatures on the title page
Edward Ripley Duggan of Wilsey Rare Books, New York, before 1997

Acquisition Walters Art Museum, 1997, acquired from Wilsey Rare Books

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The fifty-third chapter of the Book of the Prophet. 
Illuminated in the style of the XIV century by Eleanor Taylor and James Slie.
Who has believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire him.
He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.
He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from him. He was despised and we esteemed him not: Surely he hath borne our grief and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem him stricken smitten of God and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgression.
He was bruised for our iniquities.
The chastisement of our peace was upon him;
And by his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way,
And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
But he was wounded for our transgression
He was bruised for our iniquities the chastisement of our peace was upon him
and by his stripes we are healed
All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned every one to his own way
and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all
He was oppressed and afflicted yet He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb so He openeth not His mouth.
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearsers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
He was taken from prison and from judgment and who shall declare his generation, for he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth.
He was taken from prison and from judgment and who shall declare his generation for he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth.
And it pleased the Lord to bruise
him. He hath put him to grief
when thou shalt make his soul
an offering for sin. He shall set
his seed. He shall prolong
his days, and the pleasure of
the Lord shall prosper in
his hand.
He shall see of the travail of
his soul, and shall be satisfied
and by his knowledge shall
his righteousness serve, justly
money for, he shall bear
him. Iniquities
Let it please the Lord to bruise him, he hath put him to grief;
when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed;
he shall prolong his days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied by his knowledge;
my righteous servant shall justify many for his sake; he shall bear their iniquities.
He redeemed us with his blood, and He set us free from the hand of the enemy, and He raised us up to the seat of honor and placed us on high in a kingdom of love and peace. For all the promises of God are fulfilled in those who believe in Him. For Him who did not know sin, He made us the righteousness of God in Him. Therefore, I, Paul, became a servant of Christ Jesus, who had called me to be an apostle, and who had made me a chosen instrument for the gospel of Christ, to open the way of understanding to the Gentiles, to make known to them the plan of the ages that God had kept secret. For this purpose I was appointed an apostle, so that I might tell this mystery, which has been kept hidden, but is now being revealed. It is the mystery in Christ, which was hidden for ages and days, but has been revealed to God’s people, in whom the mystery is hidden. This mystery is God’s plan, according to His purpose, which He has set forth in Christ Jesus, his own precious Son, in order that His purpose concerning the alpha and omega, beginning and end of the ages, might be fulfilled. Through Christ, I was given the ministry of a minister, to open the way of understanding to the Gentiles, to make known to them the plan of the ages that God kept hidden in secret for ages past, but has now been revealed to his people. For it was to them, and not to others, that God made known the secret plan of his will, which was to gather his people together in Christ Jesus, in order that the utmost depths of the mystery might be fulfilled, that is, the mystery which was hidden from ages past, but has now been revealed to God’s people, to whom the mystery of God’s purpose was revealed, so that the Gentiles might see and believe, and through their faith and understanding enter the kingdom of heaven. For this purpose I was given the ministry of a minister, so that I might speak to the Gentiles concerning the mystery of God, which was kept hidden from ages past, but has now been revealed to God’s people, so that they might be the ministers of Christ to the Gentiles, and that they might make known the riches of the mystery, which God intended for ages past, but which is now being revealed, so that the Gentiles might see and believe. For this purpose I was given the office of minister, so that I might announce the mystery of God, which was kept hidden from ages past, but has now been revealed to God’s people, so that they might be the ministers of Christ to the Gentiles, and that they might make known the riches of the mystery, which God intended for ages past, but which is now being revealed, so that the Gentiles might see and believe.
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bare the sin of many; and made intercession for the transgressors.