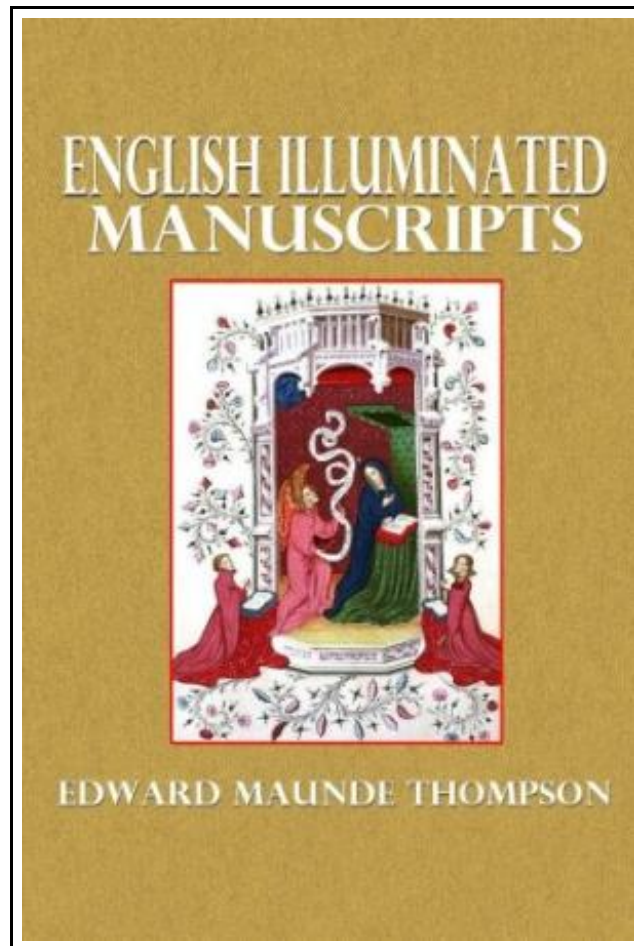


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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 114 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. An excerpt from the beginning of the first chapter: THE history of illumination and book-decoration, as practised in England in the period anterior to the Norman Conquest, has a particular interest which altogether surpasses that of contemporary continental art of the same nature. There still exist, in fairly sufficient numbers, manuscripts produced in our own country, in the three and a half centuries between the years 700 and 1066, which enable us to judge, with something approaching to accuracy, the progress of the art used in their decoration. In them we find two distinct styles: the one having its origin in the north, the other developing in the south, of the kingdom. In the north we have the style introduced from Ireland a style which may be termed almost purely decorative, in which figure-drawing is of so primitive and barbarous a nature that it counts for nothing from the point of view of art, but in which the marvellous interlaced designs and ribbon and spiral patterns combine to produce decorations of the highest merit, and such as have no rivals in other schools of illumination. On the other hand, in the style which arose in the south we have figure-drawing largely, and in no small degree successfully, cultivated; and, at the same time, the decorative side of the art is not neglected. This developed, not with the minute accuracy and laborious ingenuity of the Irish school, but with freedom of drawing and some imitation of nature; and it has a very pleasing result. It does not come within the scope of our subject to trace in detail the rise and development of the Irish school of book-decoration, or to...



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