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### Exhibitions

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## Exhibitions

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**Armenia Sacra.** Musee du Louvre, Paris (February 17 - May 14, 2007). This exhibition is devoted to Armenian Christian art, dating from Saint Gregory the Illuminator's conversion of the country in the early 4th century to the dawn of the 19th century. For more information see [www.louvre.fr/](http://www.louvre.fr/).

**Encounters: Travel and Money in the Byzantine World.** The British Museum, London (until January 2007); Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Univ. of Birmingham (February 2007 - January 2008). Byzantium and the Byzantine Empire are names given to the Eastern Roman Empire during the Middle Ages (5th to 15th centuries). Byzantines thought of themselves as Romans, and their imperial capital at Constantinople (now called Istanbul) was known as New Rome. This exhibition examines the context and spread of Byzantine coins beyond the borders of the empire and how other peoples responded to Byzantine coinage. For more information see [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk).

**Medieval Beasts.** The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (May 1- 27 July 27, 2007). This exhibition of manuscripts from the Museum's permanent collection focuses on the central role of beasts both in medieval art and the medieval conception of the world. Domesticated animals often appear in medieval images of daily life since they provided many basic provisions. Animals could also serve a symbolic function: a lamb often represented Christ, and astronomical constellations were frequently represented by creatures formed of stars. In addition, there was a great delight in depicting fantastic animals, both those that intentionally eluded human view, like the unicorn, and those from faraway lands, like the dragon. For more information see [www.getty.edu/art](http://www.getty.edu/art).



Trococite; A Headless Man with Eyes on His Shoulders; A Headless Man with a Face on His Chest; A Man with a Large Under Lip. *Unknown illuminator. Franco-Flemish, Thérrouanne?, after 1277. Tempera colors and gold on parchment. 9 3/16 x 6 7/16 in. MS. LUDWIG XV 4, FOL. 55. Courtesy, J. Paul Getty Museum of Art*

**In the Beginning** is a landmark exhibition at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, in association with the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. The exhibition coincides with the 100th Anniversary of Charles Lang Freer's gift of Asian and American art to the people of the United States, now housed in the Freer Gallery of Art, and will include several pages and fragments from Freer's "Codex Washingtonensis," fourth and fifth-century Old Testament Greek manuscripts. Also on view will be a colorful painted cover of the "Washington Manuscript III-The Four Gospels," depicting figures of St. Matthew and St. John. The exhibition presents some of the earliest biblical artifacts in existence, including pages and fragments written in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Ethiopian and Coptic-many on display for the first time in the United States. The Sackler Gallery will be the only venue for the exhibition. **In the Beginning** presents the physical evidence of the Bible's evolution, assembled for the first time. It shows how the Bible mirrors successive ages and shapes societies by charting its initial fluidity, attempts to define its contents, and its dissemination through the use of local languages, scripts and ornament.

<http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/comingsoon/IntheBeginning.htm>

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