

George A. Smathers Libraries Exhibit Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – The George A. Smathers Libraries will present an exhibition of animal imagery in medieval manuscripts. On view from January 12 through March 6, 2015, *The Beast in the Book: Animals in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Illustrations from the Middle Ages*, encourages the viewer to reflect upon the ways in which the illustrators combined high art and imagination along with didactic messages.

The publication of a facsimile often signified an important milestone in the scholarly evaluation of the work, and helped to preserve the originals from the wear and tear caused by excessive use. The facsimiles on view continue in that tradition demonstrating the faithful rendering of original gold leaf illuminations, weight of the paper, flaws, and stains.

The Beast in the Book is curated by Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica. Items on view are from the George A. Smathers Libraries' Rare Books Collection, the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, and the Cairo Genizah Collection at the Cambridge University Library.

The Smathers Library Gallery is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

Exhibition available online at <http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/beasts>