

Celluloid House Yokohama Virtual Museum

Celluloid House Yokohama Museum Collection Introduction Series 3

November 2025

Introduction of Books covered by Celluloid.

Masahiro Yokokawa (Celluloid House Yokohama)

We will continue introducing celluloid-related products (Iwai Collection) owned by Celluloid House Yokohama.

The general exhibition at Celluloid House Yokohama was closed in March 2014, but we welcome any information exchange and collaborative research on celluloid. Also, we are ready to conduct an expert inspection of the celluloid materials for free. If you are interested in our collections(products and data), or if you would like to determine the material, please don't hesitate to contact us at the following e-mail address (<mailto:celluloidhouse@aol.com>).

Books covered by Celluloid (Iwai Collection) owned by Celluloid House Yokohama:

Due to its unique texture and durability, celluloid was used as a book cover in the early 20th century. Such celluloid cover was chosen for important books, especially books frequently used in hand.

The Iwai Collection holds six books covered celluloid. They are Christian (Catholic) prayer book, and it is presumed that they have been held in the hand of the players who play multiple time a day.

The languages used in these books are English, French, and Spanish. Two books for each language and we hold total six books.

All books were used at the beginning of the 20th century.


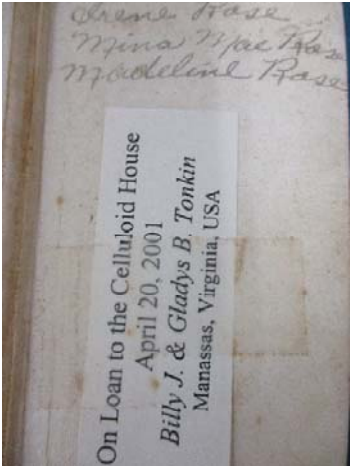
English prayer book	French prayer book	Spanish prayer book
		

1.Confirmation of cover material

The material of the cover was checked by near-infrared spectroscopy. As a result, five white books were confirmed to be celluloid.

One black book could not be judged (the waveform of near infrared ray deviated), but it is judged to be celluloid based on the texture of the material.

2. Contents of each prayer book:

English 1	
<p>(Photo: Outside of Cover)</p> <p>Cover color: White (Celluloid)</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Size: 9.5 cm x 6 cm x 2 cm</p> <p>Cover painting: Three angels watch over the sacred Hostia and the Chalice and flowers are arranged the bottom right corner.</p>	
<p>(Photo: Inside of cover page)</p> <p>① Location of usage: USA, Manassas, Virginia (Manassas, Virginia,)</p> <p>② Information indicating the owner:</p> <p>Pasted message: On loan to the Celluloid House</p> <p>April 20, 2001. Billy J. & Gladys B. Tonkin, Manassas Virginia</p> <p>Handwriting (pencil written character)</p> <p>Irene Rose, Mina Mac Rose, Madeline Rose</p>	

(Photo: Title Page)

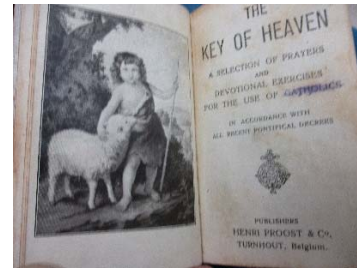
③ Title/Content: The Key of Heaven

A selection of prayers and devotional exercises for the use of Catholics.

Prayer and devotional daily duties for Catholics.

④ Publisher: Belgium Henri Proost & Co. Turnhout, Belgium

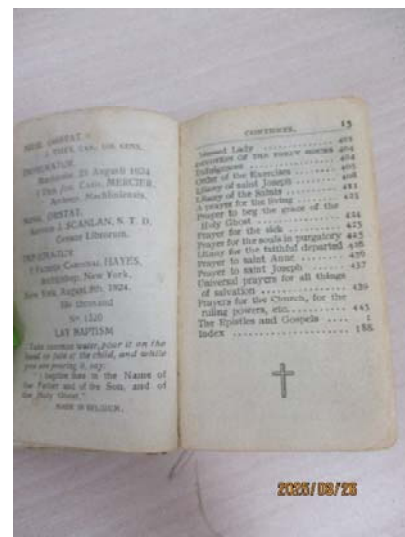
⑤ Imprimatur (print permission): Patrick Cardinal HAYES, Archbishop,
New York/ New York August 8th 1924



⑥ (Contents) Describes the duties and prayers to be performed according to various situations (Index damaged)

- Devotion of the forty hours
- Litany of saint Joseph
- Prayer for the sick

And etc.



English 2

(Photo: Outside of Cover)

Cover color: White (Celluloid)

Language: English

Size: 9 cm x 6 cm x 2.2 cm

Cover art: Jesus Christ embracing a girl

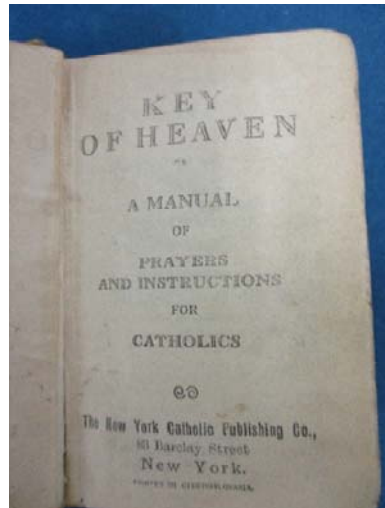


(Photo: Title Page)

- ① Title/Content: Key of Heaven

A Manual of Prayers and Instructions for Catholics.

- ② Published by: The New York Catholic Publishing Co., 83 Barclay Street
New York (printed in Czechoslovakia)



(Table of Contents) Describes the deeds and prayers that Catholics should take.

Devotion for confession

Prayer before confession

An Act of Faith

and etc.

CONTENTS.		CONTENTS.	
	PAGE.		PAGE.
Litany of the Most Holy Virgin	61	As Act of Devotion	250
As Act of Devotion	61	As Act of Charity	251
To the B. V. Mary	62	As Act of Charity	252
To the Guardian Angel	63	As Act of Charity	253
The Missing	64	As Act of Charity	254
Prayer after Confession	65	As Act of Charity	255
Prayer after Mass	66	As Act of Charity	256
Prayer after Communion	67	As Act of Charity	257
Prayer after Mass	68	As Act of Charity	258
Prayer after Mass	69	As Act of Charity	259
Prayer after Mass	70	As Act of Charity	260
Prayer after Mass	71	As Act of Charity	261
Prayer after Mass	72	As Act of Charity	262
Prayer after Mass	73	As Act of Charity	263
Prayer after Mass	74	As Act of Charity	264
Prayer after Mass	75	As Act of Charity	265
Prayer after Mass	76	As Act of Charity	266
Prayer after Mass	77	As Act of Charity	267
Prayer after Mass	78	As Act of Charity	268
Prayer after Mass	79	As Act of Charity	269
Prayer after Mass	80	As Act of Charity	270
Prayer after Mass	81	As Act of Charity	271
Prayer after Mass	82	As Act of Charity	272
Prayer after Mass	83	As Act of Charity	273
Prayer after Mass	84	As Act of Charity	274
Prayer after Mass	85	As Act of Charity	275
Prayer after Mass	86	As Act of Charity	276
Prayer after Mass	87	As Act of Charity	277
Prayer after Mass	88	As Act of Charity	278
Prayer after Mass	89	As Act of Charity	279
Prayer after Mass	90	As Act of Charity	280
Prayer after Mass	91	As Act of Charity	281
Prayer after Mass	92	As Act of Charity	282
Prayer after Mass	93	As Act of Charity	283
Prayer after Mass	94	As Act of Charity	284
Prayer after Mass	95	As Act of Charity	285
Prayer after Mass	96	As Act of Charity	286
Prayer after Mass	97	As Act of Charity	287
Prayer after Mass	98	As Act of Charity	288
Prayer after Mass	99	As Act of Charity	289
Prayer after Mass	100	As Act of Charity	290

French 1

(Photo: Outside of Cover)

Cover color: Black (estimated to be celluloid)

Language: French

Size: 10 cm x 6.5 cm x 2.5 cm

Cover painting: Black and blue-eyed shallow carving. The cross and Chalice are in the center, roses on top, grapes and leaves around it, and ears of wheat on the bottom.



A table of contents at the end of the book (photograph).

A prayer for various occasions are presented.

Page 5: Prière du matin (morning prayer)

Page 119: Litanies de la sainte Vierge.

and etc.

TABLE	
	PAGE
Prières du matin	5
Prières du soir	17
Prières durant la sainte Messe	24
Prières avant la Confession	45
Oraison très-dévoté avant la sainte Communion	64
Prières après la sainte Communion	70
Litanies de la très-sainte Trinité	81
Litanies du Saint-Esprit	83
Litanies du saint nom de Jésus	93
Litanies des saints Anges Gardiens	98
Litanies du très-saint Sacrement	104
Litanies de la passion du Sauveur	111
Litanies de la sainte Vierge	119
Les sept Psaumes de la pénitence	123
Litanies des Saints	142
Litanies de saint Antoine de Padoue	157

The cover page contained a handwritten message and we can understand the following:

This prayer book was given at the to a young girl named Eugène Osman from Mr. Houbert Les -- (his last name unreadable) as a congratulatory gift to her First Communion.

This First Communion took place on March 24, 1901 at St Pierre church in Lessines (40 km southwest from Brussels).

Don
à Eugène Osman de
M. Houbert Les
à l'occasion de sa
Première Communion
le 24 Mars 1901.
Bonne nuit
à la sainte Vierge
et à tous les saints
qui nous aident à bien
faire nos prières
pour sa famille, chaque fois
qu'il sera en état de grâce.
1901

French 2

(Photo: Outside of Cover)

Cover color: White (Celluloid)

Language: French

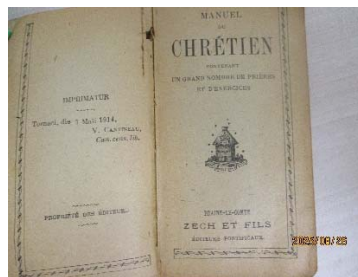
Size: 10.8 cm x 6 cm x 1.3 cm

Cover painting: Shallow carving of white blue-eye style. A cruciform with flowers and branches is located in the center of an elliptical window frame with vines.



A manual of Christian believers that includes many prayers and practices.

Publisher: ZECH ET FILS, located in Braine-Le-Comte in Belgium






A picture(as shown) was pinched.

It is described as "the memories of the solemn sacrifice".

In the picture commemorating Roland Orman's First Communion, and his First Communion took place on May 11, 1947 at Sacré-Coeur Church in Brussels, Belgium.



<p>Spanish 1</p>	
<p>(Photo: Outside of Cover)</p> <p>Cover color: White (Celluloid)</p> <p>Language: Spanish</p> <p>Size: 10.8 cm x 6 cm x 1.3 cm</p> <p>Cover picture:</p> <p>Seven angels watch over the sacred bodies (Hostia) and the Chalice. Lily flowers, grapes, and wheat ears are placed under them.</p>	
<p>Horas del Christiano (Christians' hour book)</p> <p>Includes: prayer for attending Mass, Confession, Communion, evening prayer</p>	

<p>Spanish 2</p>	
<p>(Photo: Outside of Cover)</p> <p>Cover color: White (celluloid) + pearl gloss</p> <p>Language: Spanish</p> <p>Size: 10 cm x 6.2 cm x 1.3 cm</p> <p>Cover picture:</p> <p>The white exterior with a pearly luster and the words “First Communion” are inscribed on the cross containing the Hostia and the Caliphate.</p>	

Child Angels

It includes morning and evening prayers, mass prayers, confession and communion prayers, etc.

The year note of 1924 was inserted.

