Hours of the Virgin. Rouen. XV Century.

M 27

Hours of the Virgin for the Use of Rouen preceded by an Easter table, Kalendar, and various prayers and containing the Office of St. Catherine.

Manuscript on thin vellum, written and illuminated at Rouen in the first quarter of the fifteenth century. Owned by Jean Garin, (1370-1433) canon of Rouen, one of the judges at the trial of Jeanne d'Arc, and whose arms gules, two cockle-shells or in chief and a heart argent in point appear on ff. 39v, 46v, 47v. On ff. 8v, 39v, 47v is inscribed the device: G. O. B. Y.

6 miniatures occupying 1/4 page, 63 small historiated initials, 24 Kalendar illustrations, marginal ivy-sprays. 198 leaves (8 1/2 x 6 inches). 2 cols. 23 lines. Many leaves missing.

8°. orange mor. in r.m. case lettered "Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis - French manuscript c. 1420."

From the Theodore Irwin collection.

Contents:

f.1 Ex-libris inscription of Marie le Cauchois, XV cent.
1v Note in XVth century script: Il y a 6 z xiiij istoires.
2v-14 Katelijen for Rouen
15 O Johannes gloriosse... (Not in Leroquais)
17-18 Per crucis hoc signum + fugiat a me... (Not in Leroquais). Followed by Prayers to the Virgin and prayers on arising.
18v-21 Gospel readings, commencing with John.
21v-24v Matins of the Virgin — incomplete.
25-28v Lauds of the Virgin — first part missing.
28v-31v Suffrages of the Holy Ghost and apostles.
31v-34v Prime of the Virgin for Rouen Use.
34-34v Tiaerd of the Virgin — incomplete
35-35v Sext of the Virgin — first part missing.
36-39 Office of the Passion — first part missing.
39v-41v Matins of the Holy Ghost, & St. Katherine, incomplete.
42-43v Vespers of the Virgin — first part missing.
43v-45v Complines of the Virgin.
47v-54v Complines of St. Katherine; Penitential Psalms
54v-57 Litany (Ursini)
57-63v Fifteen antiphons and ten Psalms to the Virgin.
63v Litany of the Virgin.
65v-74v Prayers on entering a church and during the service of the Mass. All in masculine gender.
75-76 Office of the Trinity for Sunday.
76-77v Office of the Dead for Monday.
77v-78v Office of All Saints for Tuesday.
78v-80 Office of the Sacrament for Thursday.
80-81 Office of the Virgin for Saturday.
81-82v Mass of the Trinity.
82v-93v Gy ensuvient les heures des plaies et lamentations que fit nostre dame...
f. 94-95v Athanasian Creed.
95v-98v Psalms for various occasions.
99-115 Office of the Dead for Rouen Use - first and last part missing.
116-116v Poem of praise to the Virgin - first part missing.
116v-125 Fifteen Joys and Psalter of the Virgin.
125v-137v Litany of the Virgin and other prayers to her; including Obsequie te (f. 131v), O intemera (f. 133v).
137v-145 St. Jerome's Psalter.
145-156 Five long prayers to God: (1) Deus inextimabile; (2) Domine Deus omnipotens qui es trinus; (3) Domine Deus qui dixisti. (4) Domine ihesu christe qui in hunc mundum; (5) Dulcissimi domine ihesu christe verus deus.
156-159v Suffrages of female saints: Anne, Mary Magdalen, Katherine, Apollonia, Margaret, Genevieve, Avia, Austreberta, Radegonde, Quiteria, Columbus: Honorina, Veronica, XI thousand Virgins.
167-168v Office of the Nativity.
168v-169v Office of Easter.
171-172 Mass of the Virgin.
172-175v Mass of the Dead.
175v-177 Prayer for Peace.
177-178v Mass of Pope Clement VI.
178v-179 Prayers of St. Jerome to the wounds of Christ.
179-188 Prayers invoking the Magi, St. Michael, Gabriel, guardian angel, All Saints, the Virgin.
188-197 Hymns for various feasts.
197-197v Three short miscellaneous prayers.
198v Inscription of Marie Le Cauchois.

Text: The gender of the prayers shows that the text was composed for a man, who, from the prominence given to St. John Baptist (f. 15,18v, 159v) was probably his namesake. It is apparent that the man who commissioned the MS. was familiar with liturgical texts beyond those of the routine Books of Hours; many are taken from the Breviary (f. 28v-31v, 145-156, 167-197v). Others (ff. 15, 17, 149, 177) are not listed in Leroquais, either in his Livres d'Heures or Breviaries. It would appear that the text presents a personal choice, commencing with the Easter table, Rouen calendar and extremely comprehensive prayers and Hours for Rouen use. The lengthy Office of St. Catherine, whose relics were brought to Rouen in the XIth century, where a fortress and quarter of the city were named after her, is of local interest.

Besides this evidence for use by a citizen of Rouen the prayers commencing on f. 145, principally for the preservation of chastity, designate him as a cleric whose continence was of professional importance. The strong prayer against his enemies on f. 149 indicates that his conduct gave rise to gossip.
Script: Medium Gothic textus quadratus in various sizes and different shades of brown ink. Compared to M. 105, a manuscript executed in the same atelier, the character of the script is less rigid and not so compressed laterally; the letters are embellished with serifs and the strokes are heavier. Some of the rubrics of M. 105 are in the same style of writing and may be by the same scribe.

Decoration: According to a XVth century inscription on f.1v, the MS. originally had 114 miniatures, of which there are now but 76 (8 in the text 2 1/3 x 1 1/2 inches) plus 68 historiated initials (1 x 3/4 inches) and Kalender medallions. All the full-page miniatures are missing. While the majority of the remainder have been defaced or rubbed, enough are undamaged to show that care and precision went into the painting of the illuminations. As in M. 105, they are the work of two miniaturists one of whom shows a strong Italian influence and is responsible for the series of tiny historiated initials. The few larger miniatures show a stylistic connection to the Paris school of illumination, as exemplified in the Très Riches Heures of the Duc de Berry. The colors are vivid and harmonious. The faces are painted with delicacy and care. Large white castles figure in the landscapes. St. Katherine disputing with the doctors (f.40v) was a favorite theme in Italian art from the XIVth century; it is infrequent in French miniatures. The Berry MS. (also partly by Italian miniaturists) was painted about 1416.

The similarity of the costume worn by the figures of M.27, makes it certain that it can not have been painted more than a decade later. The fagged cloak of the youth riding the white horse in the Kalender (f.6v) and the type of headdress of the damsel whom St. George is rescuing on f.161v, are identical with some in the Berry Hours, the Hours of Marechal Boucicaut and in the Christine de Pisan MS. of Isabelle of Bavaria executed before 1413, and now in the B.M. Harl.4431.

As in M. 105, the hair is often red-blond, the eyebrows delicately pencilled and arched, The highly burnished gold is brilliant both in the frames of the initials and in the fine ivy sprays of the borders. Of particular delicacy are the figures of the Evangelists with their symbols in the lower margins of ff. 18v, 19, 20, 21, the last of these (St. Mark) is perfectly preserved. Realistic landscapes occur in all of the larger miniatures where the action takes place out of doors, this would date M.27 some short time after M.105 where, instead of atmosphere or scenery, the old scroll or diapered work was occasionally retained.

List of miniatures:

f.2v-14 Occupations of the months and signs of the Zodiac, 24 small medallions at the foot of each leaf.
15 Initial O - the birth of John Baptist.
17 In right margin, a cross hung with emblems of the Passion.
18v St. John.
19 St. Luke.
20 St. Matthew.
21 St. Mark.
21v The Annunciation.
29 Initial D - St. Peter. Initial D - St. Paul; Initial M - St. Andrew.
29v Initial D - St. James Major.
30 Initial Q - St. Bartholomew; Initial D - St. Thomas; Initial D - St. Philip and James.
30v Initial D - St. Simon and Jude; Initial D - St. Matthew.
Initial P - St. Barnabas; Initial S - All apostles.
The Nativity, badly rubbed.
The Annunciation to the Shepherds.
Pentecost. In margin the coat of arms of the owner -
Gules, two cockle-shells or in chief, and a heart argent
in point. In a marginal bar his device: g.o.b.y., also
occurring in a scroll on f.8v. The arms are Garin of
Rouen.
St. Catherine, disputing with the doctors.
Very rare in French art.
The Baptism of Christ.
The Martyrdom of St. Catherine. Garin arms in lower
margin.
David communicating with God. Garin arms in initial
below, device in marginal bar at left.
Initial D - the Trinity.
Initial P - funeral service.
Initial D - All Saints.
Initial D - Elevation of the Host.
Initial D - The Virgin and Child standing in a mandorla.
Christ at Gethsemane; an angel approaches with the Cross.
Initial D - the Betrayal.

" D - Jesus before Pilate.
" D - the Flagellation.
" D - Jesus bearing the Cross.
" D - Jesus nailed to the Cross.
" D - The Deposition.
" G - The Entombment.
" S - St. Jerome as a cardinal, writing.
" D - St. Anne teaching the Virgin.
" L - St. Mary Magdalene.
" D - St. Catherine of Alexandria. (Her third
representation in this MS. and of interest because her
voice, and that of St. Margaret inspired Joan of Arc).
Initial D - St. Apollonia.
" O - St. Margaret.
" P - St. Genevieve.
" B - St. Avia.
" D - St. Austreberta.
" P - St. Quiteria.
" D - St. Colomba.
" E - St. Honorina.
" D (unfinished) - St. Veronica.
" D - XI Thousand Virgins.
" O - St. John Baptist.
" O - St. Stephen.
" D - St. Clement - pope.
" A - St. Vincent.
" D - St. Laurence.
" D - St. Dionysius.
" P - St. Christopher.
" D - St. George.
" I - St. Nicasius.
" O - St. Clarus.
f. 162 Initial D - St. Sebastian.
162v " D - St. Eustace.
162v " D - SS. Cosmas and Damian.
163 " C - St. Eutropius.
163 " D - Massacre of the Holy Innocents.
163v " D - St. Laudus.
163v " D - St. Romanus.
164 " D - St. Martin.
164 " D - St. Nicholas gives money to three poor girls.
164v Initials D - St. Austenius.
164v " A - St. Augustine.
165 " D - St. Ambrose.
165 " D - Pope St. Gregory.
165 " P - St. Bernard of Clairvaux.
165v " D - St. Anthony.
165v " D - St. Maurus.
166 " P - St. Leonard.
166 " A - St. Fiacre.
166v " D - St. Julian of Mans.
166v " I - St. Mellonus.

History: Executed at Rouen c.1423. The date can be fixed before 1424 by the fact that Julian of Mans is omitted from the Calendar on Jan. 27, where he was entered in Rouen Calendars commencing with that year. Julian appears in the suffrages on f.166v.

The provenance is established by the arms of the Garins of Rouen, "une ancienne famille du barreau." These are accompanied by the unsolved personal device: G.O.B.Y. of the owner, in the July Kalendar and on ff.39v and 47v, where it appears with the arms. It would seem that the owner had a special veneration for St. John Baptist, since the text begins with an invocation to him. The most prominent member of the Garin family in 1423 was Jean Garin (1370-1433), a canon of Rouen cathedral, dean of the faculty of decretals (1423-1430). In the same year (1423) he represented the canons at the marriage of John, Duke of Bedford. 1424: appointed by the Chapter, with another canon, to supervise the construction of a study or library in the Chapter House (financial difficulties postponed this till 1428). Deputy to the États de Normandie, 1423-and 1430. 1424: received from Henry V a canonicate in the church at Poissy. 1431: treasurer of the archdiocese of Rouen. That same year he was present at eleven sessions of the trial of Joan of Arc. In a public act, signed by his hand, he declares himself in complete conformity with the other judges as to her heresy. He was a delegate to the Council of Basle, where he died in 1433, leaving by his will his book of Decretals to the Cathedral library and 100 livres tournois to be distributed among the canons.

He came into open conflict with the other canons in 1424, whereupon they made him feel their authority by ordering him to send away from his home a woman whose presence under his roof gave rise to gossip. No ecclesiastical embellishments accompany the arms; according to Leroquais - Breviarires, II p.353, the arms of canons "ont l'absence d'insignes épiscopaux."

In examining the shield on f.39v, through the light it can be seen that the illuminator first painted a quartered escutcheon with a saltire in 2 and 3. Its impression is visible on f.40. There is no evidence that the escutcheons on f.46v and 47v are painted over another coat. Since the motto accompanying the arms on ff.39v,47v appears by itself on f.8v, it must have belonged to the original owner,
and the coat with the saltire was an inadvertent mistake of the illuminator which he did not repeat.

According to a late XVth century inscription of f.l "Ce present liouvre appartient a marie Le cauchoix cet a couste vingt et quatre escux." On f.198v the same hand has written: "Marie le cauchois demeurant." A Jean and Marguerite le Cauchois, (f.l.1480) of Rouen are mentioned in Anselme, VI, p.372. According to De Ricci (Census p.1370) it was no. 400 in a London sale c.1860; sold (Oct. 1860) by Appleton to Theodore Irwin (cat.1887, p.216, no.1367). Purchased in 1900 from Irwin.

Binding: 4°. orange mor. by M. Lahey; resewn and marbled end papers added c.1830. In red mor. case.

Bibliography: For information on canon Jean Garin see: J.F. Pommeraye: Histoire de l'Eglise de Rouen, 1686, p.386; Chronique de Normandie de Pierre Cochon; Rouen, 1870, p.293, Note 1; Ch. de Beaurepaire: Notes sur les juges et les assesseurs du Proces de condemnation de Jeanne d'Arc, 1890, p.71; G.A. Prevost: Recueil des Presidents, Conseillers et autres Officiers de l'Echiquier et du Parlement de Normandie par Bigot de Monville, 1905 p.259 (Garin arms). Ch. de Beaurepaire; Notre Dame de Rouen. Obituaire, 1908 p.xivj; L. de Laborde: Etude sur la Bibliothèque de la Cathédrale de Rouen, 1919, p.24 and 25 notes 1; P. Champion: Proces de condemnation de Jeanne d'Arc, 1921, Index for references.

Add cards:

1. MSS.-Illum.-French: Rouen - XV cent.
   * " : Le Cauchois, Marie XV cent.
   " : Irwin, Theodore.
4. Easter.

Months - Occupations ff.2v-14.
John Baptist: birth. f.15.
Instruments of Passion. f.17.
Evangelist: John. f.18v.
Evangelist: Luke. f.19
   Evangelist: Matthew. f.20,30v.
Evangelist: Mark. f.21.
Mary the Virgin: Annunciation. f.21v.
Apostle: Peter f.29.
Apostle: Paul. f.29.
Apostle: Andrew. f.29.
Apostle: James Major. f.29v.
Apostle: Bartholomew. f.30.
Apostle: Thomas. f.30.
Apostles: Philip and James. f.30.
Apostles: Simon and Jude. f.30v.
Apostle: Barnabas. f.31.
Apostles - all. f.31v.
Jesus Christ: Nativity. f.31v.
Shepherds: Annunciation. f.34.
Pentecost. f.39v.
Arms: Garin. f.39v, 46v, 47v.
Motto: G.O.B.Y. f.8v, 39v, 47v.
Catherine of Alexandria; disputing with the doctors. f.40.
Jesus Christ: Baptism. f.46.
Catherine of Alexandria: martyrdom. f.46v.
David: communicating with God. f.47v.
Trinity. f.75.
Liturgical scene: funeral f.76.
All Saints. f.77v.
Liturgical scene: elevation of Host. f.78v.
Mary the Virgin: in mandorla. f.80.
Jesus Christ: in Gethsemane - angel bringing cross. f.82v.
"" : Betrayal. f.83v.
"" : before Pilate. f.87.
"" : Flagellation. f.88.
"" : bearing Cross. f.89.
"" : nailed to Cross. f.90.
"" : Deposition. f.91.
"" : Entombment. f.92v.
Jerome: writing. f.137v.
Anne: Education of the Virgin. f.156.
Mary Magdalene. f.156v.
Catherine of Alexandria. f.156v.
Veronica. f.159.
Eleven Thousand Virgins. f.159v.
John Baptist. f.159v.
Stephen, Protomartyr. f.160.
Clement of Rome. f.160.
Vincent. f.160v.
Laurence of Rome. f.160v.
Christopher of Lycia. f.161.
George of Cappadocia. f.161v.
Nicarius of Reims. f.161v.
Clarus. f.162.
Sebastian of Rome. f.162.
Eustace of Rome. f.162v.
Cosmas and Damian. f.162v.
Eutropius. f.163.
Innocents: Holy. f.163.
Laudus. f.163v.
Romanus. f.163v.
Martin of Tours. f.164.
Nicholas of Myra, with children. f.164.
Audoenus. f.164v.
Augustine of Hippo. f.164v.
Ambrose of Milan. f.165.
Gregory the Great. f.165.
Bernard of Clairvaux. f.165.
Anthony the Great. f.165v.
Maurus. f.165v.
Leonard. f.166.
Fiacre: f.166.
Julian of Mans. f.166v.
Mellonus. f.166v.
For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


J. J. G. Alexander,

by Master of John Fastolf
done in France

Barbara G. Lane, "An Immaculist Cycle in the Hours of Catherine of Cleves," Oud Holland, IV (1973), fig. 11.


no. 610, [fol. 76].

Wilma Fitzgerald, "Ocelli Nominum: Names and Shelf Marks of Famous/Familiar Manuscripts (II)," Mediaeval Studies, XLVIII, 1986,

Guerin (Garin) John. Hours p. 405a