Hours of the Virgin, Rome, XVI century.

Manuscript on fine vellum, written and illuminated in France, possibly in Rouen, in the first quarter of the sixteenth century, for a member of the king's council, depicted on ff.185v and 187.

15 full-page miniatures  
195 leaves (8 x 5 1/2 inches) 22 lines  
8°. Red mor. gilt with three flaps, Italian XVI cent., in red box case.

Contents:

f.1-12v Calendar for Spain and Milan  
f.13 Miniature  
f.13-39 Office of the Passion  
f.39v-46v Passion according to S.John  
f.46v-47 Prayer  
f.47v-48v Stabat Mater  
f.49-55v Prayers to the wounds of Christ  
f.56-59v Lecitons from the Gospels  
f.60 Prayers to the Virgin, SS.Joseph and Francis  
f.61 Miniature. Office of the Virgin for Rome use  
f.97 Office of the Virgin for Advent  
f.111 Office of the Passion  
f.114 Office of the Holy Spirit  
f.117 Penitential Psalms  
f.126 Litany and supplementary prayers for pope, king and self  
f.134 Office of the Dead for Rome  
f.164v Obsecro te  
f.167 O intemerata  
f.169 Prayer to the guardian angel  
f.170 Miscellaneous prayers, one with French rubrics, including suffrages to S.James Major  
f.185 Portrait of the owner wearing robes of a councillor of Louis XII, kneeling to the Virgin  
f.186-186v Prayers to the Virgin  
f.187 Portrait of owner as "Peregrinus Peccator", kneeling to Christ holding the cross, followed by the prayer: O Benignissime Jesu  
ends f. 195

Text:

All prayers are in the masculine form. The owner must have asked for the inclusion of numerous Spanish saints in the Kalendar (Erauli, Privati, Bualie, Paulini, Engratie, Gilbert, Martirium augst, Giraldi, Innumerabllium m.), which appears to have been copied from a Milanese manuscript at the period when that city was under Spanish domination.

Each Kalendar month closes with versified seasonal advice on health similar to the Salerno maxims.
Script: Written in a good book hand, in bâtarde and in a fine lettera antica by several scribes. There is considerable variation in the color of ink, from brown to blue-black. These various scripts were combined in Rouen MSS of this period. See Ritter & Lafond pl.LVI. The quality of the vellum is very fine and the writing is much better than the decoration.

Decoration:

The miniatures are by a mediocre artist of the period around 1520 who shows a dependence on earlier Rouen types and foliage. The strong Spanish note of the text inclined me to think that the MS. had been done in Spain but the provenance does not support this.

f.13 The Betrayal  
f.61 The Annunciation  
f.68v The Visitation, with curious citadel on mountain  
f.77 The Nativity  
f.81 Annunciation to the shepherds  
f.34v Adoration of the Magi  
f.38v Presentation in the temple  
f.92v The Flight into Egypt  
f.98 Coronation of the Virgin  
f.113 Crucifixion  
f.116 Pentecost  
f.119 David to whom an angel brings a skull  
f.136 Job and his friends  
f.187v The enthroned Virgin and Child holding a parrot and wearing a necklace of coral. To the left the kneeling owner wearing a red robe and cloak lined with gray. On his left shoulder the three gold bands indicating his position as a member of the grand council of the King of France. Before him on the floor is his hat. Cf. same costume in C. Coudert: Album de portraits, 1910, pl. CXXIX. A banderole issues from his lips with the inscription: 0 mater dei plissima pro me filium semper ora. The portrait is that of a handsome man whose gray hair indicates his age to have been about fifty to sixty.

f.189 The owner dressed as a pilgrim and designated as "Peregrinus Peccator?" kneels before the figure of Christ who is shown grasping the cross. Justice kneels mournfully at the left, while Charity presents the pilgrim to Christ. At the right, three Roman soldiers. Above, God the Father, and the descending Dove. Banderoles inscribed with prayers issue from the mouths of Charity, Peccator and Christ.

History:

Written and illuminated in France, probably at Rouen, between 1510–20 for a member of the grand conseil, who had leanings toward the church of Spain. The grand conseil was a superior tribunal established under the Cardinal d'Amboise, prime minister of Louis XII to redress the wrongs of defenseless subjects. It was composed of judges and patricians who were distinguished for their ability and integrity. Written on verso of the last fly-leaf, in a French bâtarde script, probably by the owner, is a magic formula to staunch the flow of blood, viz.: "Sanguis mane in
tua vena, sicut Christus in sua pena. Sanguis mane fixus, sicut Christus quando fuit crucifixus. Ter repele. Cf. A. Franz, Die kirchlichen Benediktionen ... II, 511 note 5, quoting a similar XVth century wound blessing from St.Gall MS.755. Sold in 1863 by Ebbs to Theodore Irwin, with whose collection it was purchased by Mr. Morgan in 1900.

**Binding:**

Original red morocco gilt tooled binding, executed in Italy (probably Venice). A fine example of the three-flap binding giving protection to the edges of the leaves. The flaps are inscribed in blind capital letters on the inside: "Meditatio Libri Salutis Appertio" and on the outside: "Peccatoris Liber Clauditur Agni Passione." Upper and lower covers have gilt tooled rinceaux panel decoration with dentelle border, and a central laurel wreath framing the inscriptions: "Spes et consolatio mea Iesu et Maria," and "Nominatio Iesu et Marie Xptae Linguæ Delicie." Small silver clasps hold the flaps to the upper cover.

**Bibliography:**


1. MSS.-Illum.-French. XVI cent.
2. Provenance - France - Conseiller du roy
4. Binding - Flaps. XVI cent.
5. Blood - Magic formula to staunch flow
   Councillor, royal - French. XVI cent. f.187v
   Pilgrim-owner of MS. represented as - f.189

Other iconography cards already in file.

Retyped: Dec.15,1953.
M. P. Harrsen
Morgan MS. No. M. 31

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


Morgan Library, Twelve Centuries of Bookbinding, 400-1600, comp. P. Needham, New York, 1979, no. 47.